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WHAT'S NEXT

India



SIRIOUSLY!
The iPhone 6S is the best yet





HOW TO FIND NEW MUSIC?
Guide to the hottest online tunes

THE DESIGN ISSUE

DEVICES OF DESIRE

GADGETS SO PRETTY, YOU'LL FORGET TO TURN THEM ON

PLUS
BMW Track-day
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INNOCEAN-056/15

WELCOME



The devices we hold the closest to our hearts (and eyes) are undergoing a major shift.. This month alone, four of the biggest smartphone players decided to siphon away our fixed deposits. Apple set the precedent with **iPhone 6s Plus** (p48)retailing for a whopping ₹92,000, followed by **Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge Plus** (p67) and Sony with the **Xperia Z5**(p6), both selling for a shade under ₹60,000. Just as we were going to press, HTC dropped its One A9 upon us and, quite honestly, we're still shocked at its blatant plagiarism. It looks like a little more than just an "inspired" design and is already being dubbed as the poor man's iPhone! While the Indian launch is yet to happen, it's not going to win them any design awards for sure. But it's still a solid phone, just like every other flagship, with top-end specs and desktop-shaming capabilities.

Celebrating design (p35), this issue is also packed with some of the finest examples of 'design board to finished product'. Perhaps the most ostentatious is Bang & Olufsen's BeoLab 90, a shining example of what a design-driven company can achieve to commemorate its 90th anniversary. But let me not scratch the surface and spoil the deep dive into the following pages. Savour the temptations.

Nishant Padhiar, Editor / nishant@haymarketsac.com / twitter.com/nishantpadhiar

OUR LOGOS EXPLAINED...

The bearer of this accolade has gone up against its peer(s) and emerged victorious.

A gadget sporting this badge is a five-star product, and the one we would buy, if we were us.

...and a word about prices

Generally, we show the manufacturer's recommended price. Two exceptions:

- **Asterisk marked prices (*)** are indicative prices and subject to change depending on geographic location.
- All prices in the **Top 10s** are the best we could find at the time of printing.



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haymarket

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TOP 10 OF EVERYTHING

Looking to buy something but need a bit of advice? Turn to our *Stuff* Top Tens: our expert listings of all gadgetry, from **p101**

HOT BUY



LG 55EC930T
★★★★★
New flagship OLED
p108

HOTST

HOT FOUR #1

FOR SOMEONE WHO'S GOT EVERYTHING

Sony Z5 Premium

Stop the presses; we may have found the answer to that age-old conundrum. Indeed, the Z5 might very well be the perfect phone for someone who's got everything. Why'd that be? Let's start with the perfectly weighted metal body and the Snapdragon 810 processor. And then, let's move on to the 5.5in 4K Triluminos display. Yes, you heard that right, and no, we aren't having you on. The Z5 Premium is the world's first 4K phone! You can pick your jaw up from the floor now. But Sony hasn't stopped at merely giving its newest flagship a truly insane display. You can fit microSD cards up to 200GB, unlock the phone with the fingerprint scanner (placed sensibly on the side), relax with PS4 Remote Play, get 5-and-a-half hours of usage from a 10-minute charge, and wait for it — use the 23MP ExmorRS-powered camera and its super-speedy autofocus to take some fantastic shots.

As hot as... a dynamite factory on fire

₹62,990 / sonymobile.com/in



U F F

22 PAGES OF THE BIGGEST STORIES FROM PLANET TECH





United in colours

Black and gold are the more common finishes on offer, but Sony has gone supernova with a brilliant chrome/mirror finish and even a green option. Getting adventurous, are we Sony?

IT'S A SONY, BECAUSE OF THESE...



FINGERPRINT SENSOR
Sony's implementation of the fingerprint sensor is smart. Integrated on the side power button, it wakes up the phone the instant you pick it up. Much more evolved than most.



HI-RES AUDIO
DSEE HX technology claims to upscale MP3 files to "almost" CD-quality. Active noise cancellation and 96kHz/26-bit support mean this should be audiophiles choice on the move.



SMART COVER
Designed specifically for the Z5, the covers are available in different colours to match the body finish. Besides providing a window to vital data, it also protects the corners against bumps.

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intel inside™ CORE™ i5

HOT FOUR #2

NOW IT'S A PLAYER

GOOGLE CHROMECAST

Chromecast is a consistent winner of the award for Thing That You Cannot Explain To Your Parents. Kids, on the other hand, get it instantly and will be excited that Google's Nexus Player no longer has the exclusive on games. Specifics were slim as we went to press, but our Google sources mentioned racetracks, dancefloors, game boards and quizzes, with phones used as controllers. While that doesn't sound quite as snazzy as what we've seen of Apple's latest TV box, Chromecast is a fraction of the cost and Google has no shortage of developer friends to help it make games work with its low processing power. The soap-on-a-rope design should help those with crowded HDMI ports, along with three coloured finishes in case it now hangs somewhere where it can be seen.

As hot as... long hours of family gaming
₹tba / google.co.in/chromecast

Plug and play
A new design, but the fundamentals remain: it still needs power from a USB cable, be it one attached to your TV or from a plug-in USB power adaptor. The new flexy HDMI cable, though, will make connection a bit easier.



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Control freak

B&O engineers have worked hard to avoid typical audiophile pitfalls. To sound its best in every room, it has Active Room Compensation that tunes itself depending on the acoustics that surround it!

HOT FOUR #3

90 YEARS IN THE MAKING

BANG & OLUFSEN BEOLAB 90

Last time we checked, speakers were supposed to be rectangular boxes with the personality of a government banker. Clearly, no one gave that memo to designer Frackenpohl Poulheim who's been responsible for penning this abstract piece of sonic art. So, what you see here is an omnidirectional speaker that is equipped with 18 drivers and a foundation-weakening 8200 watts of power. Now, B&O products aren't exactly known for their value-for-money proposition and this being a special edition, certainly won't be something you can buy with your silver or even a gold card. And if you can afford it, you'll obviously be the owner of a fine mansion. In which case, you can't be held at ransom to be sitting on the sweet spot. The Beam Width Control allows the listener to adjust it from Wide to Narrow and even a party mode called Omni where all the drivers are activated simultaneously for 360° dispersion. Make sure no one's looking and wipe that drool off your chin now.

As hot as... shape shifting T1000 from Terminator 2: Judgement Day

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Speed freak

If you despise external recorders as much as us, you'll be happy to know the Mark II features two CFast card slots and an SD card slot. As Kim Kardashian once said, don't stop and record away.



HOT FOUR #4

LIGHTS, CAMERA, 4K

CANON EOS C300 MARK II

This one is for all the Peter Jacksons out there, the ones who want to shoot a glorious, epic spectacle in the highest of definitions. Single-handedly. Canon EOS C300 Mark II might not roll off the tongue easily, but it shoots glorious 4K without making the videographer look like the guy from Atlas Shrugged. It is absurdly portable and with an advanced imaging engine with dual DIGIC DV5 processors, and new professional codecs, a very capable camera as well. If you are a George Romero at heart, fret not, low-light performance is tremendous as well. The Mark II supports ISO speeds of upto 102,400 for extreme low-light imaging. The 8.85MP Super 35mm 16:9 CMOS sensor promises to make a few eyes pop with the sheer amount of detail it captures so finish up that script and start saving, because with pixels so crisp, this little monster won't be cheap.

Ashotas... **Mount Doom's fires**

₹12,99,000 / canon.co.in

GIGAPIXEL

The bigger picture in tech



WE MUSK GET UP THERE

Last century humanity had itself a lovely time, firing all sorts of things into space to see what would happen. Then someone realised that the rockets had burnt through all of the money. So mankind had to cut back on its orbital fun, until eccentric money-titan Elon Musk decided that, while rockets burn money at an alarming rate, they can also *make* money. Hence SpaceX, the first private space company, and the spring 2016 launch of the 53,000kg-payload Falcon Heavy, the biggest rocket since beasts like the mighty Saturn V (inset pic) were retired. Whee! What to put in it?

NEWS FEED



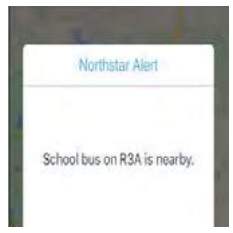
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Band of runners

JAWBONE UP 2

Fitness bands are pretty cool. But what's with the loud designs most seem to have? Why can't we have something that looks like a simple bracelet a normal human (someone who doesn't subsist solely on protein shakes) would wear? Well, we do now – the Jawbone Up 2! With automatic sleep tracking, up to ten days battery life and a Smart Alarm feature, it's got everything you need when starting out, and with 8 different styles you, won't have to apologise to every snarky pal of yours.
₹9999 / jawbone.com

VS

You can run but you can't hide

GOQII

The chaps over at Goqii reckon they've cracked the activity tracker conundrum – it's not that other fitness bands aren't good, but that given how laziness seems to be the one defining trait of humanity, what we need is some inspiration. Like a swift kick up our backsides. And that's what Goqii gives you via its personalised coaching subscriptions. What else do you get? Up to 12 days battery life, a new design and a metal clasp that secures your Goqii, and makes sure it doesn't become dinner for your frisky puppy...
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Three's company
INTEX AQUA ACE

The Aqua Ace's 5in Super AMOLED display should keep you entertained with its bright colours and there's 4G, 13MP rear / 5MP front cameras, a 64-bit processor, and 16GB storage (expandable by 128GB) for the spec-obsessed. But that's not all, the Aqua Ace has a few more (rather nifty) tricks up its sleeve – the clumsy-user-friendly 1-year screen breakage warranty, the clean, near-stock UI, gesture support, multiple camera modes and (we've saved the best for last), the 3GB RAM that should make it the multi tasker's best pal.

₹12,999 / intex.in





Hello Halloween
SPIDER DESIGNS SKULL SPEAKER

It's that time of the year again, when the dead come calling and the living beg for candy. If it was upto us, Halloween would last a month instead of the paltry 24 hours we get now. If you are on the same page as us, then you need to get the imaginatively named Skull Speakers from Spider Designs. This little chrome-plated Bluetooth skull with sunglasses belongs in a Mad Max movie but you can use it to belt out tunes for up to ten hours on a single charge.

from ₹2999 / amazon.in

Li'l tube cube
GOPRO HERO 4 SESSION

This new GoPro's form factor is an absolute ripper. Its advantages go beyond simply being smaller than other GoPros – it's waterproof without a case, which is convenient and has a positive effect on audio quality. Compatible with the bazillions of GoPro mount accessories, there's also a new low-profile mounting option. The battery is not removable and it lacks the 4K recording of the flagship Hero 4 Black, but a matrix of options between 1440p/30fps and WVGA/120fps should be enough for most. Bluetooth and Wi-Fi, a tiny LCD display and a microSD slot complete the Session.

₹29,270 / stereovision.biz



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IN THE AIR TONIGHT

Panache Air PC

₹9999 / thinkpanache.com

The Panache Air PC looks like a streamer but is actually a PC! A whole new take on pocket PC? Maybe...

Not convinced. That still looks like a streamer...
Ummm... okay. We can't argue with that highly logical thought. Karl Marx would be proud. Why? For reasons unknown. Confused? Don't be. It is simple. This stick has a proper, functioning PC built into it. A relatively new company, Panache has packed in a 1.33GHz Intel Z3735F Quad Core processor that is small enough to fit inside a matchbox, but works like a flamethrower.

Fine, fine. There's no need for desultory metaphors. What can the PC do?
Ahh, finally. The pulchritudinous creature's coming around. So, the Air PC can do pretty much everything a regular computer can do, just in lesser quantities. But that doesn't mean it's not big on features. In fact, it is pretty loaded for something this small. It's got Bluetooth 4.0, WiFi, a USB 2.0 slot and a microSD slot. But the best part of it all is the fact that you can connect it to a lmost any display or TV that has an HDMI connection. What's that? Not heard of HDMI? No problem, there's a VGA connector too for the neanderthal within you.

Oh, so it wants to replace the laptop! Clever indeed. But can I play GTA V on it?
Well, yes. It wants to replace the humble laptop. Add Windows 10 to the picture and the Air PC is pretty much a laptop replacement thanks to the features that Windows 10 has to offer. To answer the other intelligent question — No! It won't play GTA V. It only has a paltry 2GB of RAM that is just enough to get you through the boring presentations and spreadsheets. However, we would load our movies on it and plug it into the telly. Hassle-free, big-screen movie watching pleasure. Oh, you can stream 'em online too. So, yeah, you can call it a streamer. Maybe.





THE AIR PC IS PRETTY MUCH A LAPTOP REPLACEMENT THANKS TO THE FEATURES THAT WINDOWS 10 HAS TO OFFER

INK SPEAKS LOUDER THAN RESUMES.



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All for one and one-in-all

ACER ASPIRE Z3-700

Think of a massive 10in FHD tablet that also backs up as a PC when required. That's what is on offer with the Acer Aspire Z3-700. A tablet, a PC and a whole lot of fun. Weighing just two kilos, this touch-sensitive, all-in-one can be propped up on two in-built kickstands like a PC or laid flat on the table. Moreover, WIndows 10 will be pre-installed for chilling out on the slickest Windows OS this side of the century. Sure, we're taking gross liberties here, but hey! With a product so diverse, a few exaggerations are but permissible.

₹tba / acer.co.in

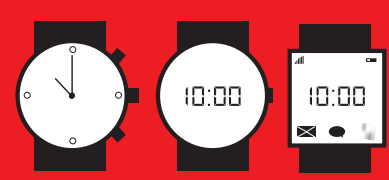


Magic in the air

APPLE IMAC

Christmas has come early for the lovers of the red fruit from Cupertino. Apple has decided to give a delicious overhaul to the entire iMac family — Retina 4K display for the 21.5in iMac and an eye-watering Retina 5K display for every 27in iMac. The 5K display is officially the world's highest resolution all-in-one display. It can't be described in words, so we won't try. The accessories got some much needed loving too — say hello to new Magic Keyboard, Magic Mouse 2 and Magic Trackpad 2!

from ₹91,900 / apple.com/in



PRIMETIME

Your space to read all about new watches that make us drop our jaws



Minus-8 Edge

$298 / minus8watch.com

Pick up the Edge and in an instant, the very specific type, 316L (Low Carbon) Stainless Steel hypnotizes you with its texture — not that we already weren't mesmerized with the design and the fact that it is a chronograph. The minute numbers etched onto the edge, a touch of pure evil. Gone weak in the knees? Join the queue.



Original Grain

$149 / originalgrain.com

This one takes the brownie points for excellent execution of hand-crafted finesse. If metal/ plastic watches are too mainstream for you, then the Original Grain watch, carved out of genuine Ebony wood should tickle your senses.



Sevenfriday M2-01

₹1,21,850 / sevenfriday.com

A heady mix of industrial, mechanical inspiration with iconic design. Adding to the charm are the 3 customized discs instead of hands for hour. We particularly love the brilliantly designed leather straps that offer maximum comfort for wearing the watch all day long.



A flat Wall-E
IROBOT ROOMBA

One of the smartest places in the world, MIT, invented the Roomba in 1990 and forever made being lazy a rewarding experience. The Roomba is a vacuum cleaning robot that looks like a fat frisbee. It is smart enough to understand real world environments and returns to its Home Base once finished with the cleaning. Schedule it to clean at a convenient time and it wakes up like Skynet and then glides throughout your house creepily, cleaning the whole place to a bright sheen.
₹32,900 / irobot.in

Tech yoga... It works!
LENOVO YOGA TAB 3

There's no denying the benefits of Yoga. Makes sense then that Lenovo has jumped off the deep end, into the yogic pool to churn out it's increasingly interesting Yoga series. Take the Yoga Tab 3 for instance. Aiming to be the ultimate video tablet, it has a claimed battery life of upto 20 hours, Dolby Atmos sound, 4G connectivity, and a 180-degree swivelling camera. For a stylus, just grab the nearest pointy thing to dab away on the HD display. Flexibility of use and ease of stylus -accommodation – Yoga, is indeed the way to go people!
₹16,999 / thedostore.com



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ICON

IT WILL SCARE UNSUSPECTING GUESTS, WHILE TELLING THE TIME



MB&F ARACHNOPHOBIA

from US$15,900 / mbandf.com

Great. A clock that I'm physically afraid of.
Spooky, isn't it? Whirring and spitting and bundling up your nan in a silken sack.

Do spiders like Indian flatbread?
Two 'a's in naan, you little chapati. And there are also two 'a's in 'inaccurate', which is to say that this clock doesn't whirr or spit or wrap up anyone's relatives for slow digestion. What it does do is sit on your desk – or more strikingly on your wall – and scare the heebs and jeebs out of unsuspecting house guests. While telling the time.

Are spiders renowned for their time-telling?
They ought to be. After all, they spend half their days watching humans destroying their webs, saying, "I spent bloody ages making that, you dolt." But this clock is more about spiders than time – it's inspired by the 10m-tall spider sculpture by Louise Bourgeois. As if a 10m-tall spider wasn't creepy enough, Bourgeois called it *Maman* – 'mum' in French. MB&F wasn't weirded out by that, though, and has created this homage; and, as clocks are their thing, they made it a clock.

Quite a fancy bit of clockery, too.
Oh, quite. The mechanism is made by French clock artistes L'Epée. It's mechanical, so you're going to have to go near your freaky clock about once every eight days to wind it. Probably mantra-ing to yourself, "It's not going to jump, it's not going to jump." There are two versions of the Arachnophobia: badass black, or 18K gold-plated for a few thousand dollars more.

Your world is not flat.

RICOH
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RICOH THETA S is the newest model in the bestselling series of 360° cameras that have inspired a unique genre of visual creativity for capturing everyday scenes, from an all-new perspective. You don't need to compose a shot – simply push the button with the camera held straight or sideways, and share effortlessly with your friends. And our constantly evolving apps let you increase the fun you can have with your RICOH THETA S.

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resonance RI21915

Size does matter
PANASONIC TOUGHPAD FZ-Y1

Did you feel that? It's the sound of corporations rushing to manufacture a new product line immediately after Apple. We are talking, of course, about super-sized tablets. All hail Panasonic's own champion – a 20in behemoth that swallows galaxies. The Toughpad FZ-Y1 with its 4K display, packs 230ppi, a few pixels less than the iPad Pro. It chugs along on an Intel Core i5 vPro processor with 8GB of RAM. Panasonic says its targeting enterprise users but we have a feeling a few tech-fiends won't be able to resist this cathedral-sized tablet.

₹2,40,000 / panasonic.co.in





Where did Z2 go?
SAMSUNG Z3

We don't like this new trend of tech companies gobbling up numbers. Microsoft ate up Windows 9 and Samsung is now launching Z3 immediately after Z1. The Z3 packs 8GB storage, 1GB RAM and a whole lot of Tizen. Tizen is the ex-girlfriend Samsung just can't let go. Sure, it didn't work earlier and sure there is other fish in the sea, but there is something about Tizen which makes Samsung go... tizzy. Personally, we think it's because it reminds Samsung of simpler times.

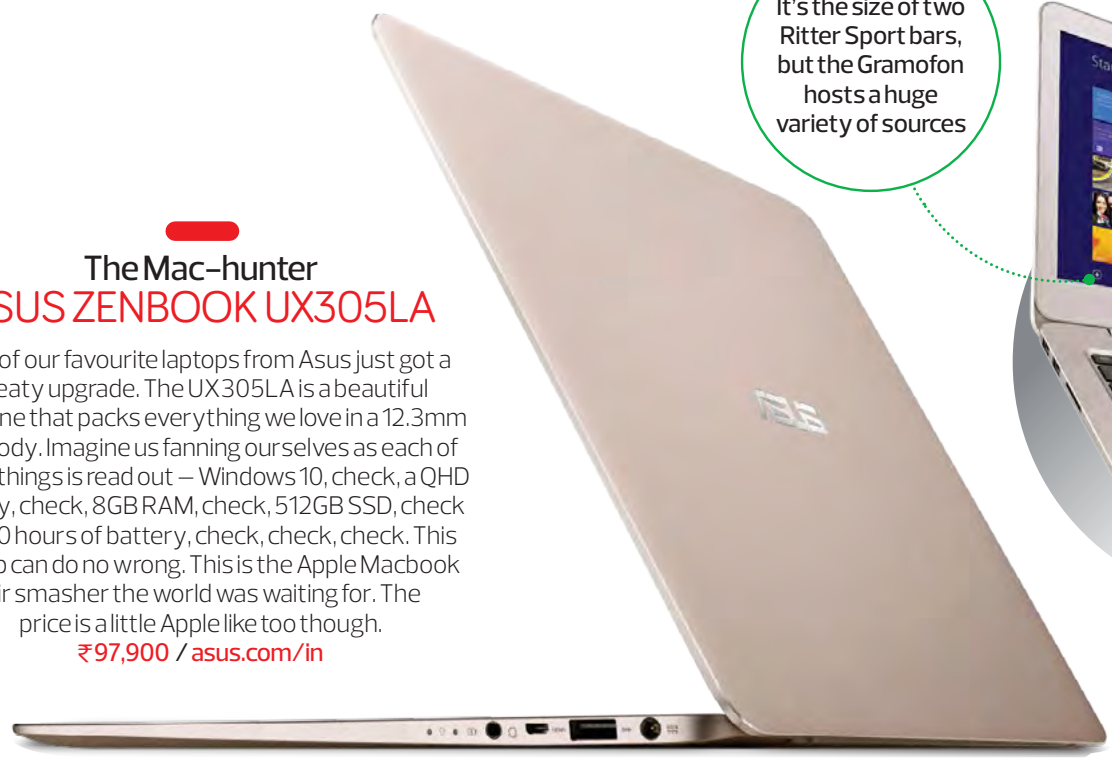
₹8490 / snapdeal.com

The Mac-hunter
ASUS ZENBOOK UX305LA

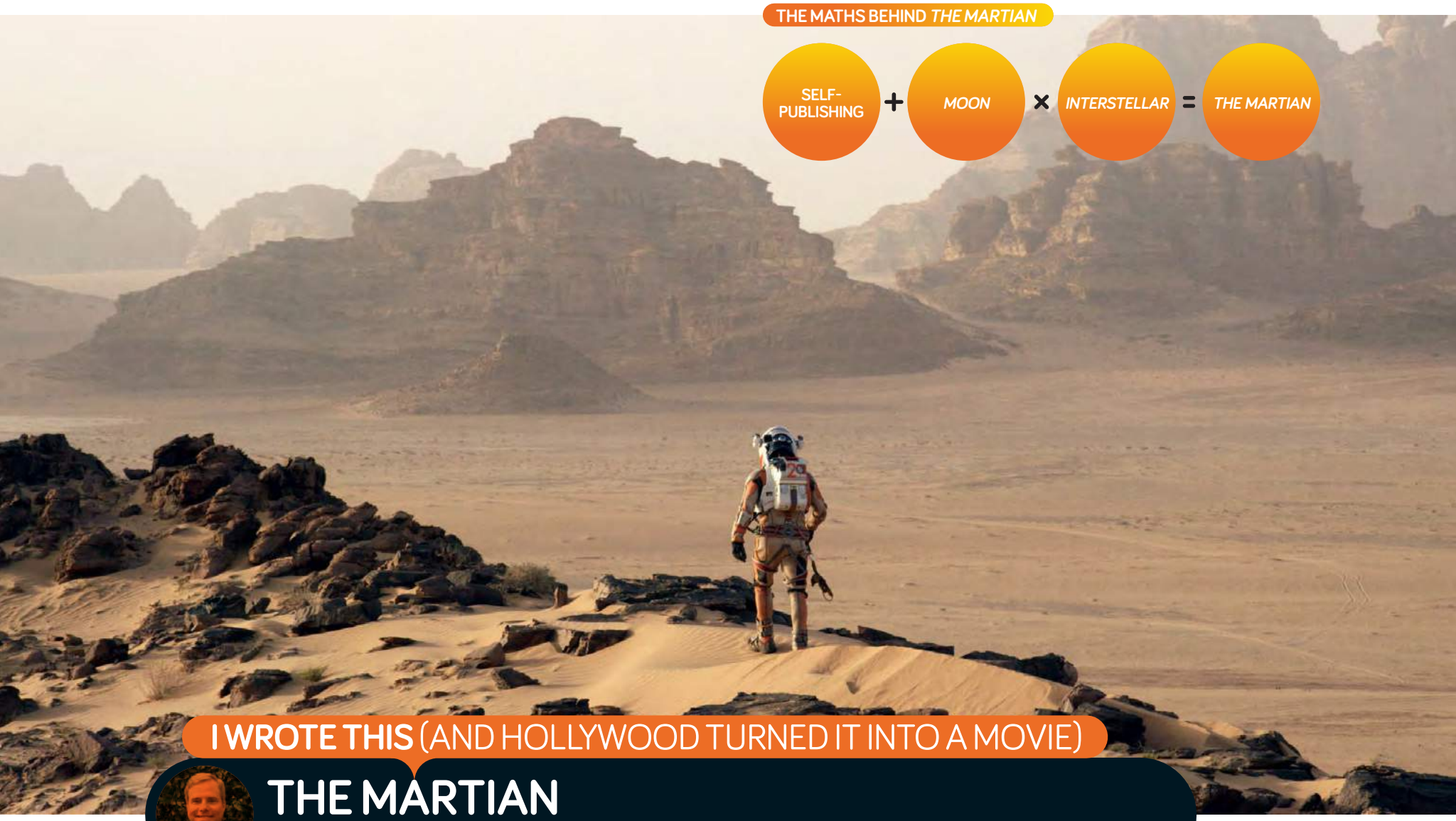
One of our favourite laptops from Asus just got a meaty upgrade. The UX305LA is a beautiful machine that packs everything we love in a 12.3mm hot body. Imagine us fanning ourselves as each of these things is read out – Windows 10, check, a QHD display, check, 8GB RAM, check, 512GB SSD, check and 10 hours of battery, check, check, check. This laptop can do no wrong. This is the Apple Macbook Air smasher the world was waiting for. The price is a little Apple like too though.

₹97,900 / asus.com/in

It's the size of two Ritter Sport bars, but the Gramofon hosts a huge variety of sources







I WROTE THIS (AND HOLLYWOOD TURNED IT INTO A MOVIE)

THE MARTIAN

Self-published writer Andy Weir on going from blogger to blockbuster

For 25 years, I was a computer programmer, quietly sitting in a cubicle writing code, and suddenly I've been thrust into this world with movie stars and NASA people – it's been a complete upheaval of my life but it's been awesome.

I'd been poking around in my head at the idea for *The Martian* but I didn't really do anything with it for about four years. I've been a big fan of space and the space programme for my whole life, it's always been a hobby and an interest of mine, so I started off with more than a layman's knowledge because I eagerly watch any documentary on the subject. But it's not like I researched everything in advance – I did that as I wrote it.

My brand of self-publishing was just posting things for free on my website, and I'd accumulated a mailing list of about 3000 hardcore science nerds – just like me – over 10 years of writing science-fiction stories. So when I got to a part where I needed to know how ion thruster engines worked, I'd do the research, post that part of the story and then get feedback from the mailing list. There's a guy on the list who works as a reactor technician and he emailed me information about radiation; another guy's a chemistry professor and he told me I'd got some of the science wrong in one of the chapters. It was like having 3000 fact checkers – I called them beta readers.

The hardest part was explaining all the scientific stuff to the reader without it sounding like an encyclopaedia – that's why Mark is a smartass and uses all that gallows humour. I'm also a light-hearted guy, so two or three jokes per page keeps pulling the reader through.

I didn't want the reader to be too heavily focused on the date. I wanted it to seem like it was true but at the same time I wanted it to feel like it was happening now, so I mentioned things like Wikipedia early on in the story to make it feel contemporary.



"MATT DAMON HAS NAILED THE CHARACTER – IT'S PERFECT"

20th Century Fox got advisors at NASA and its Jet Propulsion Laboratory to keep things realistic for the movie. Ridley Scott [*the film's director*] cares a lot about scientific accuracy, which is great, because that was a priority of mine but it wasn't necessarily going to be a priority of his. I could tell from the deeply detailed scientific questions that would filter down to me from him that he was paying a lot of attention to accuracy.

I haven't seen the film yet (at the time of going to press), but the trailer matches what I had in my head very, very closely, especially the video that shows Matt Damon talking to the psychiatrist. He has nailed the character – it's perfect. The Hab, where the astronauts live while on Mars, is exactly the way I imagined it. The spacesuits are more sci-fi than I had in mind but I think they look awesome. Hermes, the ship they take to and from Mars, looks totally different to how I pictured it, but I never really described it in the book so that's understandable – and I think it looks great.

NASA is very happy with the book and they're really excited about the movie. I think they see it as a way to hopefully re-engage the population in space travel.

Make way for the new generation
HTC A9

Android Lollipop is now old hat; it's all about Marshmallow. And HTC is already on it! The new HTC A9 has Google's latest OS out-of-the-box and giving it company is an all-metal body, a 5in Full HD AMOLED display with Gorilla Glass 4, the new Snapdragon 617, 3GB RAM, and 32GB storage (yes, expandable up to 2TB!). Woah! We're not done yet, there's also a fingerprint scanner, a 13MP rear camera with OIS and Dolby sound!
₹por / htc.com/in





The Jack of all trades
GLOBALSPACE TECHNOLOGIES SOLT

The Solt (we love the name) is being hailed as India's first 3-in-1 tablet. It works like a tablet, a laptop and a desktop. How does it do such a thing we hear you ask. Well, the Solt tablet comes with a detachable keyboard and a dock. Put the 10.1in tablet and keyboard together, and you get your basic Windows 8.1 laptop with 2GB RAM and 64GB internal storage. The dock, with 4 USB ports and dual surround speakers, converts it into a full desktop PC. Magic!
₹19,450 / solt.in

Point! Shoot! And hey, presto!
FUJIFILM INSTAX MINI 70

There's something peculiar and nostalgically alluring about instant photo cameras. Doesn't matter if you're a millennial or a child of the '90s/'80s, those 'polaroids' were indeed something. The grainy picture and bulky devices may have gone, but the charm remains. The FujiFilm Instax mini 70 is exactly what it was all about. This latest entrant of the Instax series even allows for selfies with a dedicated selfie button. What're you waiting for? Flash away.
₹11,500 / fujifilm.in

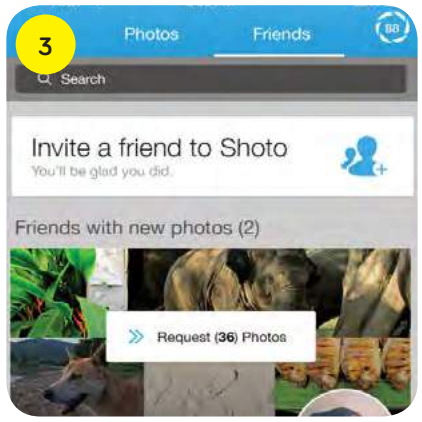


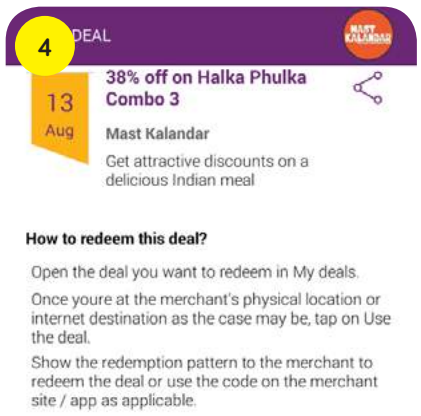
APPS

This month's mobile must-downloads





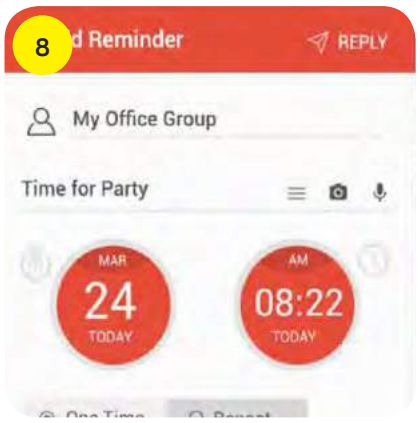


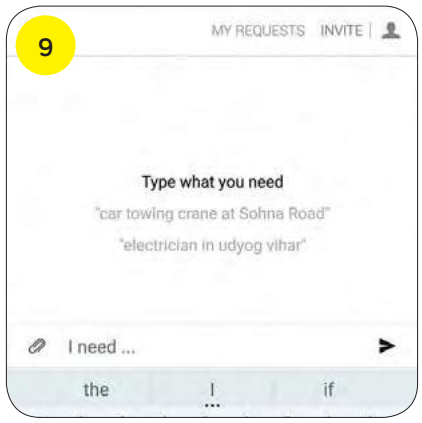












1 Saregama Classical
from ₹99 per month / Android, iOS
With a library of over 8k songs and 50 radio stations, this app gives fans of Hindustani, Carnatic and Fusion much to be happy about. And guess what, it's got an offline feature too.

2 VoxWeb
₹free / iOS, Android
Snapchat has disappearing pictures, the new iPhone has live photos and now VoxWeb has introduced speaking pictures. Your selfie, now with sound — Voxweb is calling it a voxie.

3 Shoto – The Photo-Getting App
₹free / iOS, Android
Wish to collect all the snaps taken by everyone at the recent party you went for? Shoto lets you do just that. You can curate pics, create forums and party on.

4 Little
₹free / iOS, Android, Windows
Online shopping's the best thing ever! But what about the coolest local deals that slip you by? Get Little, a hyperlocal lifestyle app, and you'll never lose track of the best stuff and services around!

5 Legacy Quest
₹free / Android
We love convoluted RPGs from the far east! This Korean dungeon crawler with a great loot system pits heroes (that would be you) against monsters to defend family bloodlines.

6 F-Secure ADBLOCKER
₹free / iOS
This one's for the Apple fellas. The app lets you enjoy your 'Safari' by blocking traffic from unknown advertising servers. Save that bandwidth and surf uninterrupted.

7 Marrily
₹free / Android
This is exactly like Tinder, except it's for arranged marriage. Yep, you anonymously swipe left-right and in case of mutual interest a message is sent to your family. Tremendous.

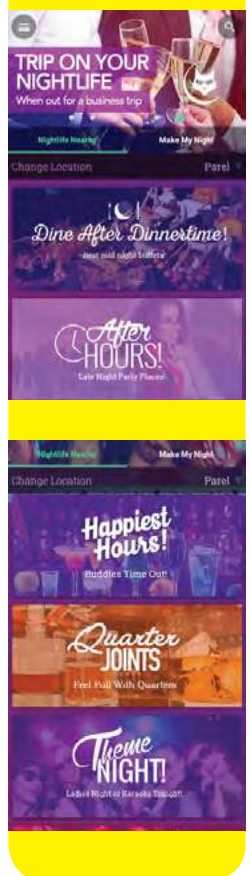
8 RingABell
₹free / Android
Set reminders for others using this little devilish app! Husband forgetting birthdays? Set a reminder for him and your own haunting voice will remind him at your chosen time.

9 Goodservice
₹free / iOS, Android
Midnight munchies? Don't know where to go? Turn to this 24/7 app/concierge to get in the know. Let this app be your modern butler and ply to your every reasonable whim via in-built text-based chats.

APP SPOTLIGHT

HAPPITOO - HAPPY HOURS NEARBYE
₹free
Android

Planning a night out around the town? Happitoo's more than happy to help! From finding out the hottest places in town to details about happy hours in real time, this location-based party planner app is all you need. There's even a 'Make My Night' option that helps you plan an epic night in six steps. What's more? You can even socialize with fellow users of the app to bring in a fun night about town. Hold our beer while we get the app!





The mutant cometh

MICROMAX CANVAS LAPBOOK

All hail the Wolverine! With his claws of adamantium and healing powers, he... what? Oh right! sorry. We guess we had a Hugh Jackman moment. Well, it's not really all that different from one of the iconic characters played by the brand's ambassador – a mutant . The Canvas Lapbook marks Micromax's entry into the laptop segment. With pre-installed Windows 10 and a 11.5in display, the 1.83GHz Intel Atom sporting Canvas seems to be just the right kind of Micromax mutant.
All hail the Canvas lapbook then? Time will tell.
₹13,999 / snapdeal.com

The boombox never died

BOSE SOUNDTOUCH 10

Who says you need a Hi-Fi system as big as the Deathstar to enjoy music? Not Bose, that's for sure. Its new SoundTouch 10 wireless speaker is small enough to be tucked away in any corner of your living room and with WiFi, and Bluetooth streaming, you can be anywhere when you decide you make your kid brother jump out of his skin with some LOUD metal. The SoundTouch app also lets you stream music from a network hard disk and you can even pair multiple SoundTouch systems for a multi-room music experience.
₹19,013 / boseindia.com





The elite just got a boost

VERTU SIGNATURE TOUCH

If you're not yet familiar with Vertu's ultra-elite smartphones then you definitely need to up your dosage of *Stuff India*! The English brand's latest handmade, luxury smartphone now features a 5.2in FHD display on which you can view images and shoot 4K videos via its 21MP rear camera. Handcrafted fine leather and Grade 5 titanium are just the tip of the iceberg as far as exclusivity of materials used is concerned. 24/7 Concierge service/ Lifestyle coach which is a common feature on all Vertu phones? Of course! Seriously, get some *Stuff* in you already.
₹por / vertu.com

TIME FOR ABARTH?

As monsoon bids adieu, we head to the track onboard the new Fiat Abarth 595 Competizione for a few hours of bonkers

from ₹30,59,885 (ex-showroom, Mumbai) / fiat-india.com

[**Words** Yatish Suvarna & **Main Image credit** Yatish Suvarna]

While the 1957 classic featured a modest 479cc engine, this 2015 model packs a 1.4 litre, in-line 4-cylinder T-JET engine punching out close to 160HP. That kind of power can get you places even when the car tips the scales at a ton. First, lets take a walk around, pay our respects, before we let her loose.

From the outside, cute has given way to aggressive, evident in the Abarth badging and red four-piston aluminium fixed-brake callipers ready for action. The 17in spot alloy rims with 205/40 ZR17 wheels pack in more wickedness for the drive.

Swing inside, and Alcantara-kissed Sabelt racing seats extend a warm welcome and offer decent comfort. However, adjusting the back-angle is a different story altogether. Shift to first gear (AT/M) with the press of a button and the car feels like it has the right amount of bite for a day of rubber-burning around the track. Handling is focussed, helped hugely by the frequency selective dampers that adjust themselves according to the road condition and a heady mix of TTC (Torque Transfer Control). All ensuring you end up with glorious drifts around swooping bends. The only bit spoiling the party was the 5-speed AMT gearbox, which simply was not able to decide the right gear no matter what the driving condition was.

> "Handling is focussed, helped hugely by the frequency selective dampers"







A certain blood rush, hampered by a party-pooping gearbox...



Bow chukka wow!

NIKE FLYKNIT TRAINER CHUKKA

If you're wondering what a 'chukka' is, then look no further – this is pretty much it! Part of Nike's Sneakerboots Holiday 2015 Collection. You're still wondering what a 'chukka' is aren't you? Well, they're ankle-length leather boots with suede or leather uppers, generally speaking. Told you. Nike's chukka sport a double layer Flyknit upper which is mixed with wool for extra warmth and also offer water resistance. The shoes can weather daily use as well as those gruelling training sessions. Relax, we can hear your inner-hipster breathing heavily already.

₹13,995 / myntra.com

QUICKTEST

Intex iRist

₹9999 / intex.in

With bright straps that could put a hot summer's day in Delhi to shame, the Intex iRist may appear to be just another tacky smartwatch. But there's more than what meets the eye, or should we say, blinds it.

Is more always better?

We've seen a fair amount of new smartwatches surging the market. Some people think they need them, some people don't and the others absolutely love, and support them by buying a device as soon as it comes out in the market. But the iRist here, is actually a phone disguised as a smartwatch. This caters to a different category of lunatic customers, those who love gadgets and collect crazy stuff. Bluntly, there's no reason for such a thing to exist otherwise.

Ummm... Hello?

Everything on the iRist is done through the 1.56in 240p display and two buttons on the side. The little bulge in the middle is the



camera– a 5MP toddler that allows you to click and record over the 4GB (expandable upto 32GB) of internal memory it packs. The iRist runs Android's KitKat and is not really optimized for it. It is a slide-to-right operation and not that difficult to figure, though. With 3G, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth 4.0, the iRist likes to go wireless. But what you connect to it, are these funky-looking orange earphones. Call quality is decent and it is just like using regular hands-free. But then, you have to charge the earphones too.

Which is a wee bit painful. You don't need that in your life. You also have to keep the hands-free, ummm, handy, as you answer your calls through that. Overall, it is a very wierd concept and something Mr. Bond would shy away from, but Inspector Clouseau would embrace.
You are neither.

Is there a smartwatch in there?

There is the entire Play Store for an array of apps and games. Download the basic apps like Whatsapp and you will soon learn the art of typing with your nail tips or you might just develop some sort of mental disorder. All of it just proves how bad an idea it is to implement a proper phone into a tiny watch. There's also a step counter that is as exciting as a sloth on a lazy day and the worst part of it all is that there's no orientation sensor. Those who wear watches on the right hand are sure to turn into psychopath killers and will only be able to take a selfie of their arm – armfy. We hope Intex launches a software update soon. So, with these shortcomings and certain design flaws, this Intex watchphone remains a gadget-freak collector's device.
Not for the practical among us.

Stuff says ★★☆☆☆

The iRist demands a lot of money for something that shouldn't even exist. Let this one RIP

OUT 10 NOV

FIRST PLAY RISE OF THE TOMB RAIDER Xbox One, Xbox 360

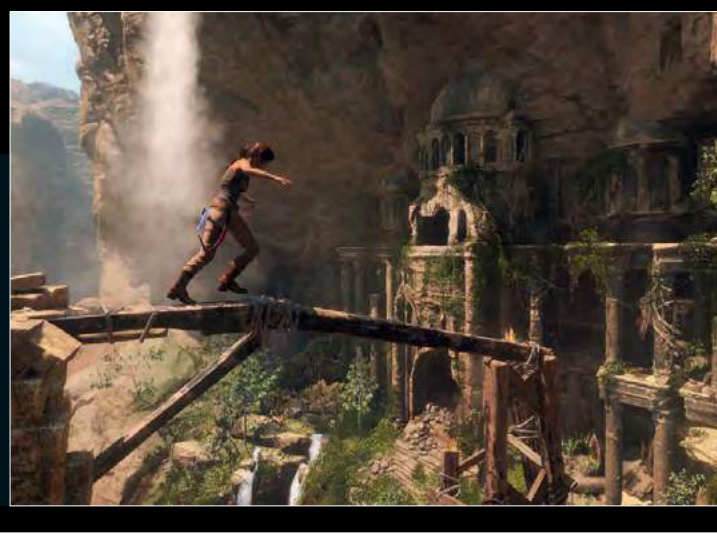
The *Tomb Raider* reboot in 2013 was a gritty redux of the artefact-nabbing franchise, but it was the game's labyrinthine playgrounds that kept the brain cogs whirring for hour after hour. Can *Rise...* repeat the feat?

As we guide Ms Croft through thick snow towards an icy peak, the visual gains of a next-gen console are clear. Of course, this is *Tomb Raider*, so before too long the mountain face starts to crumble and our heroine must jump and swing back and forth to reach stable sanctuary. It's not quite *Mirror's Edge*, but Lara certainly feels nimble and athletic. A few pesky quicktime events later, we're safe.

Her new 'survival instincts' tool helps point you towards a puzzle's solution. At first it feels a bit dirty, as if you've cheated, but as the chambers increase in complexity you'll appreciate the prod in the right direction.

Lara also has some new non-lethal skills that can be used to sneak past baddies rather than taking them all down. We use the cover of bushes to infiltrate a Soviet compound. It makes Lara effectively invisible, in spite of her distinctly not-bush-coloured red jacket, plus she can toss any detritus she finds lying around to distract guards — that old gaming chestnut.

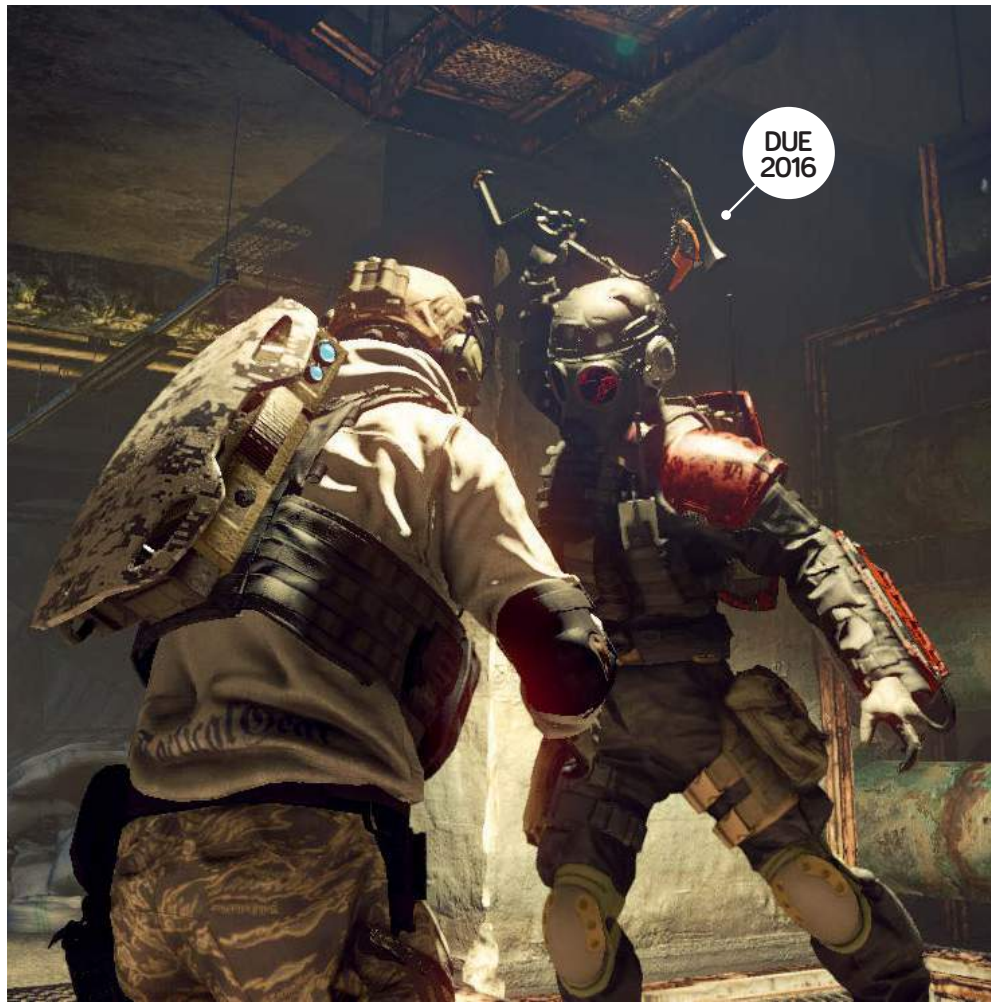
Finally we reach the heart of the compound. Rickety towers and weathered rope reach out in every direction and for almost an hour we explore, finding some areas inaccessible (for now). With its delicately tiered puzzles that require patient experimentation, tense Indiana Jones-esque set pieces and superbly deployed mysticism, *Rise...* is shaping up to be textbook *Tomb Raider*.



FROM THE TOYKO GAME SHOW

UMBRELLA CORPS

PS4, PC



Resident Evil games normally shuffle along at a speed akin to the undead that hide round each of its gloomy corners, but this online-only offshoot appears to be an entirely different, if equally brain-hungry, beast.

Named after the shady corporation that caused the zombie outbreak in the original game, the premise is preposterous – although that's hardly unique in gaming. The Umbrella Corporation is no more, but other nefarious companies have carried on experimenting with biological weapons, testing them in squad-based battles in restricted areas, like a real-life Laser Quest.

That means you get to run around a grotty multistorey car park with a gas mask, a gun and an extra tactical item to help your cause, such as a nasty-looking cross between a scythe and an ice axe that can be stored conveniently in the squishy skull of a passing zombie.

You'll also be competing against human opponents in the fast-paced team deathmatches, the toughest of which is in One Life Match mode – a Ronseal affair that means once you're zombie fodder, it's game over.

GAMES FOR YOUR NEW APPLE TV



RAYMAN ADVENTURES

Rayman often gets overlooked when talk turns to the greatest platformers but his recent output is easily comparable to Mario's (and the less said about Sonic, the better). *Adventures* will soon make its way to Apple TV, so you can help the Incrediballs find their missing eggs and grow the biggest tree on the big screen.



GT SPIRIT

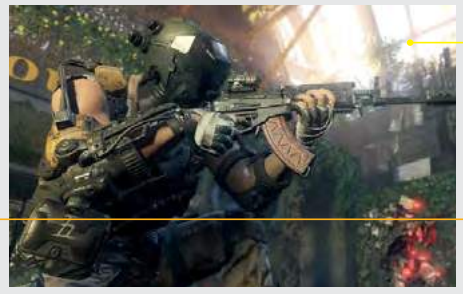
Way before *Forza Horizon* did it, 2006's *Test Drive Unlimited* let you loose in an open world with a rip-snorting motor. *GT Spirit* is from the same studio, so you can expect to blast your way through mountain passes while competing against your friends. Car manufacturers involved include Nissan, Chevrolet and McLaren.



BEAT SPORTS

While Activision has made a full-on version of *Guitar Hero Live* for Apple TV, *Rock Band* maker Harmonix has created a collection of music-based mini-games loosely based on sports, including golf and volleyball. Think *Wii Sports* meets *Just Dance*, where you whack away balls thrown by a one-eyed space aubergine in a baseball cap.





INCOMING

NOW
- CALL OF DUTY: BLACK OPS 3
- FALLOUT 4
- FOOTBALL MANAGER 2016
- STAR WARS BATTLEFRONT

DECEMBER
- JUST CAUSE 3
- RAINBOW SIX: SIEGE
- HITMAN

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THE HIGHEST FORM OF KIT

HI-FI

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ACCESSORIES

HOME

TRANSPORT

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A GADGET THAT FEELS LIKE AN EXTENSION OF YOUR BODY AND ONE THAT GETS LEFT IN YOUR KITCHEN DRAWER? THE ANSWER IS NEARLY ALWAYS BRILLIANT DESIGN. SOME THINK THIS JUST MEANS LOOKING PRETTY. BUT AS THESE MASTERPIECES SHOW, THE BEST TECH IS AN INGENIOUS ALCHEMY OF FORM AND FUNCTION...



B&O BEOLAB 19

Who's more important – the designer or engineer? B&O reckons this wireless subwoofer proves that both are equals. Rather than unleash its designers to create sculptures that would give its engineers migraines, it puts both teams together early on to make sure they're following its 'form follows function' principles. So while its dodecahedron shape means it'd look at home at the MoMA, it can also disperse the bass better without colouring the sound.
₹4lacs (approx) / beoworld.com



GRAMOVOX FLOATING RECORD

"I always felt that watching a record spin is just mesmerising," says Gramovox co-founder Pavan Bapu. So he made sure he'll be forever stuck in vinyl trance by crafting this vertical record player. It's not the first sound spinner to do it (Sony's PS-F5 got records standing up in 1983), but it is especially elegant and user-friendly. It comes with its own cartridge and speakers, which means no fiddling about with a phono preamp.
$US400 / gramovox.com

DEVIALET PHANTOM

Ah yes, the mysterious, shiny orb trick. Audiophile gear loves to adopt an arcane shape before talking about 'diffraction' and 'audible spectrums'. But the Phantom is a Bluetooth speaker that's capable of producing 105dB of sound from one metre away. That's the maximum legal loudness for a nightclub, from a speaker that's barely bigger than a bowling ball. How? To produce low frequencies usually only possible on much bigger speakers, the Phantom creates a high internal air pressure equivalent to the acoustic energy of a rocket launch. This ensures that, when fed the hi-res music it craves, the Phantom's side-firing bass drivers flutter dramatically like tiny wings. Looking like an EVA Pod isn't without its benefits either – this ensures omnidirectional sound that never leaves you 'off axis'. The gadget Mother Hen might just have laid her golden musical egg.
from ₹1,40,000* / devialet.com

LISTEN

THE MODERN CLASSIC



INSPIRED BY



WALL-E 2008



EAMES LOUNGE CHAIR 1956

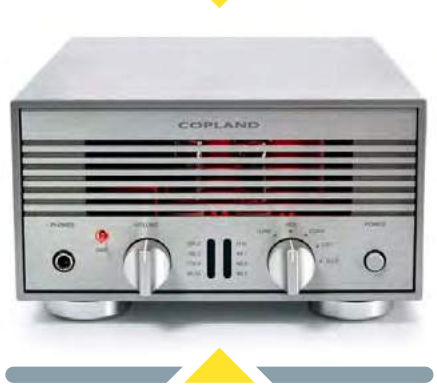
DAVONE RAY-S

Any design that mimics an all-time classic like the Eames lounge chair runs a serious risk of looking like it belongs in Etsy's kitchest corner. Not these curvaceous, hand-crafted speakers from Denmark, though, which combine beechwood cabinets with elegant steel stands that will perfectly match your carefully crafted mid-century manor (or your Ikea Poang Armchair, at the very least). At only 29in tall, they're perfect for low-ceilinged city flats too. Just make sure you remember not to slump onto one after a hard day's graft.
₹6,44,000 / decibel.co.in



UE ROLL

If most hi-fi hails from the 'cat' school of design (elegant, if not exactly playful), the Roll is a bearded collie licking your face with its user-friendly enthusiasm. The Roll's shape ensures that it throws out a 360° field of sound, making it an ideal picnic buddy. A built-in bungee cord and waterproofing (up to 1m) mean it's perfect for shower karaoke too. Add the stain-proof fabric face, and you have a travel companion that's more loveable than a Pomeranian.
₹9822 / shopyourworld.com



COPLAND DA 215

For a company that has the word 'listen' splashed across its homepage, Copland is surprisingly keen to please your eyes too. The Danish audiophiles (unrelated to the Stallone film) have been crafting hi-fi since amps were built like tanks and looked like, well, this. The DA 215, a DAC, preamp and headphone amp for polishing digital files played from your PC, has it all: clean lines, weighty knobs, and the mysterious glow of valves incarcerated in a musical prison.
₹1,80,000* / copland.dk

ONE

TWO

THE ONLY SPEAKER YOU'LL NEED



THREE

EMMANUEL NARDIN
DEVIALET CO-FOUNDER

1 THE SIZE

"We had to work with a maximum acoustical volume of six litres, which is 20 times less than the volume of other speakers that reach the Phantom's power. The shape is a response to these acoustical challenges."

2 THE SHAPE

"The sphere has always been known as the perfect shape to reproduce sound, so we made sure to give the Phantom an edgeless design. There is absolutely no space left to add anything else inside the Phantom."

3 THE TWEETER

"The design of the Phantom's tweeter was inspired by 'cymatics'. The word comes from the Greek for 'wave' and is a technique that allows soundwaves to affect matter and create some amazing shapes."

TWO

THREE

THE CAMERA REINVENTED

ONE

ARIEL BRAUNSTEIN CHIEF PRODUCT OFFICER, LYTRO

1 BACK TO BASICS

"We aimed for a simple and straightforward design. This was intended to distinguish the Illum from conventional DSLRs and make it clearly a piece of technology."

2 FORWARD THINKING

"The camera's signature angle is the logical answer for shooting with a screen viewfinder. It represents a 'duh' moment – not only for light field photography, but for any digital camera."

3 ALRIGHT FOR THUMB

"The Illum was designed so that every setting, mode and variable can be adjusted at the touch of a thumb, all while keeping a finger on the shutter release."

LYTRO ILLUM

You probably think light bounces off things and lands in your camera and makes a picture, but actually it only appears to move; in some weird sense, the light landing on your camera's sensor is there permanently, but it's also never there, and... and... we need a lie down. Okay, that's better. So, while most cameras capture a flat plane of light that just looks as though it has depth, the Illum captures more information – real depth. In this multi-dimensional future, time can be rewritten. Pictures can be refocused after they've been taken. How? That serious-looking cylinder looming out of the Illum's forward-leaning body isn't a lens; it's a container for hundreds of lenses, capturing information from many perspectives and focal lengths, building a huge image that is simultaneously in and out of focus, at the same time. Depending on who's looking at it. Time for another lie down.
₹60,000* / lytro.com



DIGITAL BOLEX D-16

Some designs are so iconic, it's best to let their retro goodness shine through. The original 16mm Bolex camera almost single-handedly sparked the rise of indie filmmaking in the '60s; since this digital version arrived in 2012, it's been riding a tidal wave of nostalgic goodwill, and it's easy to see why. It can shoot 2K films at 24fps, is compatible with old C-mount lenses and has that 'pistol grip' for ultra-steady shots.
from $3000 / digitalbolex.com



LOMO'INSTANT BOSTON

Not all instant cameras are as well built as a bag of crisps. The Boston may be plastic, but it takes the instant into uncharted realms of desirability with its clean lines and bright paint job. In the box are fisheye, portrait and close-up lenses to complement the built-in wide-angle, and there are experimental options galore, including unlimited multiple exposures and flash filters for adding psychedelic spice.
₹13,000 (approx) / photovatika.com

CAPTURE



PANASONIC LUMIX GM5

If the Leica Q (see right) is a little black dress, the GM5 is a really great pair of trainers. Not quite as chic, not such a special occasion when you take it out. But actually, the design is so nice that it goes with pretty much everything, and it's affordable enough that you'll take it everywhere. Plus, you can accessorise it with your wardrobe of Micro Four Thirds lenses, making a pocket-size camera as versatile as a DSLR.
₹88,679 / ebay.in



PANONO EXPLORER EDITION

We've been waiting with cupped hands for this panoramic ball-cam to arrive since it first hit Indiegogo in January 2014. A limited batch of 1000 are finally shipping, and the final design includes 36 fixed-focus cameras, which automatically stitch together photos into a 360° panorama when you throw it in the air – a unique alternative to flying a drone over your garden party.
₹1,50,200* / panono.com

LEICA Q

The word 'luxury' is often mistranslated as 'useless and wasteful': iPhone cases carved out of fossilised dinosaur spleen, car seats stitched from rare marmosets. True luxury is demonstrably better than the things around it, and the Q is a masterpiece of quiet luxury. Simple, well-made dials change the main variables easily and effectively; a small but powerful viewfinder frames your shots; a full-frame sensor and superb optics turn them into beautiful images. You could make one from diamond-carved mammoth tusk, but you couldn't make it any more desirable.
₹2,91,000* / en.leica-camera.com

THE MODERN CLASSIC



INSPIRED BY



CONTAX G1 1994

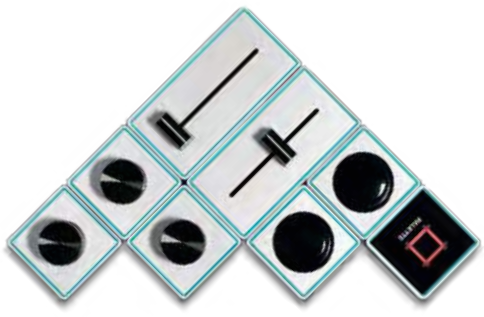


LEICA CL 1973



MISFIT FLASH

Wearable tech needs to be actually wearable. Not Google Glass wearable, where everyone who sees you wearing it stares like you've got no trousers on. You should be able to put it on and forget about it, like you do with your trousers. That's the thinking behind Misfit's Flash, which you can wear on a wristband, clip to a keychain or stuff down your sock and it'll count calories burned, tally up how many steps you take and work out how well you sleep.
₹1999 / snapdeal.com



PALETTE

Good design isn't always about rigidly dictating how something should look and function. Not unless you work for Apple, anyway. Palette is a modular system of buttons, dials and sliders, all connected magnetically around a USB brain with an OLED screen. It means you can turn your Photoshop sliders into tactile controls, or the dials in your music production program into real, tweakable knobs. The customisable layout puts you in the designer's seat.
from US$200 / palettegear.com

APPLE WATCH EDITION

If it's what's inside that counts, in horological terms the Apple Watch is unremarkable. With no movement or 'complications' there's little under the sapphire crystal screen to discuss, but it's what Sir Jony and co have done to marry the old and new that makes this most stylish of wristputers stand out. Apple's first smartwatch keeps the traditional crown but gives it a new job: it now navigates the Watch's globular app cluster, zooming with a twist, and taking you back to the homescreen with a press. Rather than a window on the back to examine the workings, there's a heart-rate sensor, and its Taptic Engine turns vibration alerts into well-mannered taps on your wrist. Attach a rubber sports strap and it's a sleek health tracker; dress it in leather and you might get asked to turn left when you board your next flight. And you wouldn't get that wearing a Pebble, would you?
from ₹80,000* / apple.com/in

THE MODERN CLASSIC



INSPIRED BY



YAMAHA SY-1 1974



YAMAHA YC-10 1969

YAMAHA REFACE YC

The music industry loves a bit of nostalgia, although obviously it's not as good as it used to be. If the option to use something vintage is there, they'll take it. If they catch sight of an opportunity to reform something, they'll do it. Yamaha is no different and the YC is part of its Reface range – a remake of four old synths with new-fashioned bits added. That means the YC will make organ noises straight out of the late '60s, while being equipped with all the necessary outputs to play straight into a PC or hook it up to the accompanying iOS app.
₹35,578 / audiobuy.in



HEIMPLANET FISTRAL

Normally, if a tent doesn't collapse on your face and keeps your pants dry it's had a successful day tenting, but any serious camper knows the bits before and after that are just as important. Heimplanet threw out the irritating poles that come with most tents, replacing them with inflatable beams. Its first blow-up tent was the sci-fi-looking Cave, but the dual-chamber Fistral is a more lightweight bundle.
₹40,216 (approx) / heimplanet.com



CRANK BROTHERS Y16

If something has a lifetime warranty, you can be fairly sure it wasn't knocked up in somebody's lunchbreak. That kind of confidence only comes from good design. The Y16 is a clever take on the standard Y tool, with 16 different gadgets built into a pocketable metal frame, including all you need to fix most issues out on the road. It's no coincidence that it looks like a pedal, either; that's how Crank Brothers made its name.
$30 / amazon.com



THE GOLD STANDARD FOR WEARABLES

SIR JONATHAN IVE
CHIEF DESIGN OFFICER, APPLE

1 HEART OF GOLD

"With Apple Watch Edition we're working with a uniquely luxurious metal: 18ct gold. We're using both yellow and rose gold. Each is a custom alloy designed to be twice as hard as standard gold."

2 APPLE HARDENED

"We use a new hardening process to strengthen a metal that is naturally very soft. The molten gold is cast into solid ingots. These are then precisely milled to remove any imperfections."

3 CROWNING GLORY

"Magnifying content on a small display is important. The Digital Crown is a remarkable input device. It fluidly zooms into apps and, crucially, you can use it without obstructing the display."

HOW DOES IT WORK?

1 FIELD OF DREAMS
Buried in the Riggad's base is a coil of wire called the 'transmitter'. This has an alternating current passed through it, generating an electromagnetic field.

2 LIGHT OF THE CHARGE BRIGADE
Your Qi-compatible phone has another coil. When this is put inside the EM field, a current is induced in the coil, and that power goes into the battery.

3 YOU'RE GETTING WARMER
Wireless charging can cause your phone to heat up a bit. This is normal, but if it gets too warm the wireless charging will stop (it'll also stop when your phone is full).

YOUR SMARTPHONE'S GUIDING LIGHT

ONE

TWO

IKEA RIGGAD

If Allen keys still give you flashbacks to 'Wardrobegate', fear not. The Riggad is a different Ikea beast – the instructions are just two steps long, and it's part of a range from the Swedish flat-packers that includes wireless charging. That 'plus' sign on the base marks an induction charging point that is compatible with any Qi-certified smartphone, which includes Samsung Galaxy models, Google's Nexus phones, Nokia's Lumias and many others. "I wanted them to blend in easily in the home," its designer David Wahl explains. "The charging pad has a simple yet interesting design that can be used in many places across the home." Ikea also offers a wireless charging bedside table and the option of converting existing furniture using the Jessen wireless charger and Fixa five-piece hole saw set. If you dare.
₹502* / ikea.com



HYPETEX HALO CHAIR

Formula 1 has given us many techy treats, from traction control to ABS brakes, and now it's inspired this iconic chair. It's made from the world's first coloured carbon fibre, an F1-developed material called Hypetex, and is here to show off Hypetex's potentially bright future with its terrifyingly minimalist design and disc-shaped backrest. Expect to see this chair subtly influence your sports equipment over the years.
₹10lacs* / hypetex.com



NANOLEAF BLOOM

Lightbulbs have stepped out from the cover of glory-hogging lampshades. Following Plumen's lead is this energy-efficient LED bulb, which is dimmable without a dimmer switch. Flick your light switch off and on during the bulb's slow build towards 1200 lumens and you'll lock in that level of brightness. Then stand back and admire your diode-dotted bulb. It'll make your bills look good too, thanks to the use of copper rather than aluminium LED heat sinks.
$40 / nanoleaf.me

DWELL



MIITO

Sometimes design is about shearing away unnecessary fluff. Take kettles. Because they all look the same, we'd assumed they had reached design perfection. But Miito has refined the idea into a base plate and rod. You see, traditional kettles waste energy because we always fill them up higher than we need. But the Miito only heats the water in your cup by using an induction base to heat the rod. It's quiet and doesn't get caked in limescale either. Neato.
₹8039* / miito.de



NEST

He might not have Jony Ive's status, but industrial designer Fred Bould has been behind some major gadgets over the years, including the Roku 3 and GoPro Hero 3. None are quite as iconic, though, as the Nest Thermostat, which he helped craft with Tony Fadell, iPod creator and Nest's CEO. Its hefty metal dial has an iPod-esque click that we'd play with a lot more if the Nest wasn't so good at adjusting the temperature automatically.
₹20,000* / store.nest.com

JUNIPER M LAMP

The Humphry Davy mining lamp and the later carbide lamp (whose lime-based chemical reaction was used in theatre spotlights, hence the phrase 'in the limelight') both inspired the design of this wireless, portable and highly versatile LED lamp. Its handle and up-to-60-hour battery life mean it's ideal for roaming around and pretending you're a character from *Great Expectations*. But we'd be more likely to hang this 9in-tall beauty on our shed wall for working on 'projects' (translation: reading lots and lots of comics).
₹20,000* / juniper-design.com

THE MODERN CLASSIC



INSPIRED BY



CARBIDE LAMP 1910



DAVY LAMP 1815



VW XL1

Take aerodynamic design to its extreme and you usually end up with something crazy and futuristic. The XL1 may, as our review remarked, look a bit like a sci-fi hearse, but its streamlined profile, covered wheels and lack of wing mirrors (it uses cameras) ensure that it's the most fuel-efficient production car in the world. Sadly, VW only made 200, but the German car-maker reckons it's an example of the kind of vehicle we'll all be driving in 15 years.
₹1.5Cr (approx) / volkswagen.co.in



JOHAMMER J1

It might look like a giant pizza cutter, but there's reason behind the Johammer's design. Its low centre of gravity and unique chassis mean there's room for enough batteries to give it an incredible 125-mile range. Extra sci-fi points are won for building the dash into the rearview mirrors, and for including regenerative brakes. The 14hp and 120kph top speed won't raise much hell on the motorway, but in town they'll mean more time getting gawked at.
from ₹23lacs / johammer.com

SPECIALIZED S-WORKS VENGE VIAS DI2

Aerodynamic drag is road cycling's nemesis. To beat it, you need a slippery crusader who was born in a wind tunnel. The Venge ViAS is that superhero. Mark Cavendish's sprinting steed is a design marvel that Specialized claims is the fastest bike in the world. As you'd expect, it's packed with aero-obsessed touches. There are no external cables, with brake lines instead routed through the handlebars and frame. The 'Aerofly' handlebars and stem, with their aggressive 'ram horn' look, keep the rider in an aero position, while the frame tubes are specially shaped to cut through the air. All of this creates a sleek eel of a bike that Specialized's wind tunnel tests say is two minutes faster than a standard bike over 40km. For weekend warriors charging around mountain roads, that's a lifetime.
₹8,55,000* / specialized.com

MOVE

THE MODERN CLASSIC



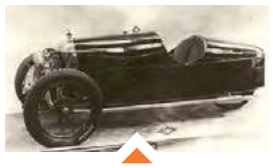
INSPIRED BY



MORGAN THREE WHEELER 2011



AUTO UNION SILVER ARROW 1933



MORGAN THREE WHEELER 1911

MORGAN EV3

Three-wheelers have come a long way from Trotters Independent Traders. In 2011, Morgan re-launched its motorcycle-engine-powered classic and suddenly turned them into desirable weekend runabouts. Now they're getting a futuristic makeover with this electric version. Looking like it's leapt from a post-war cover of *Popular Science*, the EV3 packs enough lithium-ion batteries to take you 150 miles on a charge and promises to do 0-100kph in a more than decent eight seconds. We're polishing our aluminium aviator goggles in anticipation.
₹tbc (due 2016) / morgan-motor.co.uk



QUADROFOIL Q2A ELECTRIC

Jet-skis are old hat, and not just because of their noisy, leaky engines. This twin-seat electric craft has four foils that lift it out of the water for a smooth 'flight' at up to 40kph. The quiet, emission-free motor also means it's allowed in waters that aren't open to peace-shattering motorboats. Throw in a removable steering wheel that acts as the key, and you have the 21st century update to Roger Moore's Wetbike.
from ₹15lacs* / quadrofoil.com



KLEPPER BACKYAK

We've seen modular kayaks before, but this takes the idea and runs several ultra-marathons with it. In its basic form, the Backyak is a two-seat carbon kayak that breaks down into two 10kg drum-shaped backpacks for you to carry to remote waters. Add various accessories (from €990), though, and it transforms into a catamaran, toboggan, floating sun lounger or two separate mini-kayaks. There's even an optional electric motor for a spot of lazy touring.
from ₹3,81,000* / backyak.de

ONE

TWO

THREE

THE WORLD'S FASTEST ROAD BIKE

CHRIS YU SPECIALIZED
AERO AND RACING R&D LEAD

1 THE COCKPIT

"We're proud of the Venge's bar and stem, which is its most distinctive feature. By packaging all the cabling internally and developing a new rise handlebar, we've been able to get tremendous performance from the cockpit."

2 THE BRAKES

"Designing aerodynamic brakes isn't necessarily hard, but designing ones that function as well as the best traditional calipers took a lot of effort. The seat tube location reduces both frame flex and aero drag."

3 FRAME/WHEELS

"The frame was designed in tandem with the wheels and components. By designing the tyre-to-wheel interface and the wheel-to-frame system we were able to reduce drag while gaining the handling and comfort benefits of a wider tyre."

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DESIGN FOR GOOD

GRAVITY LIGHT 2

"Good design must primarily serve people," IBM's first president Thomas J Watson once mused. And few designs promise to serve more people than this refined version of the not-for-profit GravityLight. Here to help the fifth of the world's population who are still without electricity, it's a safe alternative to the expensive, dangerous practice of using kerosene lamps at home. Using the same working principle (see right) as the original 2013 model, it now incorporates a pulley system to ensure anyone can lift the weight and has new LEDs that double its energy efficiency. A new assembly line in Kenya will see it roll out at some point in 2016. Bravo, chaps.
gravitylight.org



HOW DOES IT WORK?

1 The user pulls up the 12kg weight using a pulley. The weight falls gently through a six-foot drop at 1mm per second.

2 This movement powers a drive sprocket (a wheel with teeth), which rotates very slowly with high torque.

3 A polymer gear train turns this into a high-speed, low-torque output, which drives a DC generator and provides 20 minutes of light.



ALTAEROS BUOYANT AIRBORNE TURBINE

The 'BAT' promises to bring renewable energy to remote communities. According to Altaeros, winds that are 1000–2000 feet above ground are five to eight times more powerful than those down here – so the helium-filled BAT can produce around twice the energy of an ordinary wind turbine (and look considerably cooler doing so).
altaerosenergies.com



DOTS BRAILLE SMARTWATCH

This Braille smartwatch uses a grid of tiny pins, which rise and fall to help the visually impaired tell the time and read messages. Previous electronic braille readers have been bulky, but the Dot shrinks the tech down for the first time and translates text from apps like Twitter or ebooks. Its creators also want to bring the tech to ATMs. Sounds a lot better than relying on Siri.
₹tbc (due December) / fingerson.strikingly.com

DESIGNER SHORTCUTS

CROWDYHOUSE.COM
Buy next year's design classics directly from Europe's best indie makers at this nothing-to-do-with-Neil-Finn store. Designers are vetted by the site, so quality is a cut above the likes of Etsy.

OPENDESK.CC
This Ikea-bothering site lets you download furniture designs to build yourself or pick up from a local maker who has offered to laser-cut, 3D-print or build it for you. They let you request alterations too if you ask nicely.

QUIRKY.COM
A crowd-powered gadget incubator, this site lets you take part in the design of products. If you have rendering, drawing or even legal skills to offer, you can take a cut of the revenue by offering your 'influence'.

The secret of our 6s

Apple has introduced 3D Touch and an improved camera to the iPhone 6s, but is that enough tech to keep pace with the Android competition?



from ₹62,000 / apple.com/in

On first glance, the iPhone 6s doesn't look at all different from its predecessor. On every glance, in fact, the 6s is near-identical to the mega-selling iPhone 6.

Aside from the 's' on its rump and a slight weight gain that you won't notice, Jony Ive's ultra-thin curved aluminium design is still in place. And it looks as desirable as ever.

What's changed with the 6s is the finesse it's been lavished with: it's a subtly significant upgrade. The more durable glass and metal make the 6s less prone to scratches – bye bye #bendgate. Its new A9 processor with built-in M9 motion chip is blisteringly speedy, although Apple won't claim any figures. It also has a new 12MP camera that captures 4K video and moving Live Photos (or GIFs, as we all know them).

Most significant of all is 3D Touch, a new gesture for iPhone using haptic feedback. You might have encountered it via Force Touch on the Watch or MacBook. It's simple, useful and oh so Apple. What else were you expecting?

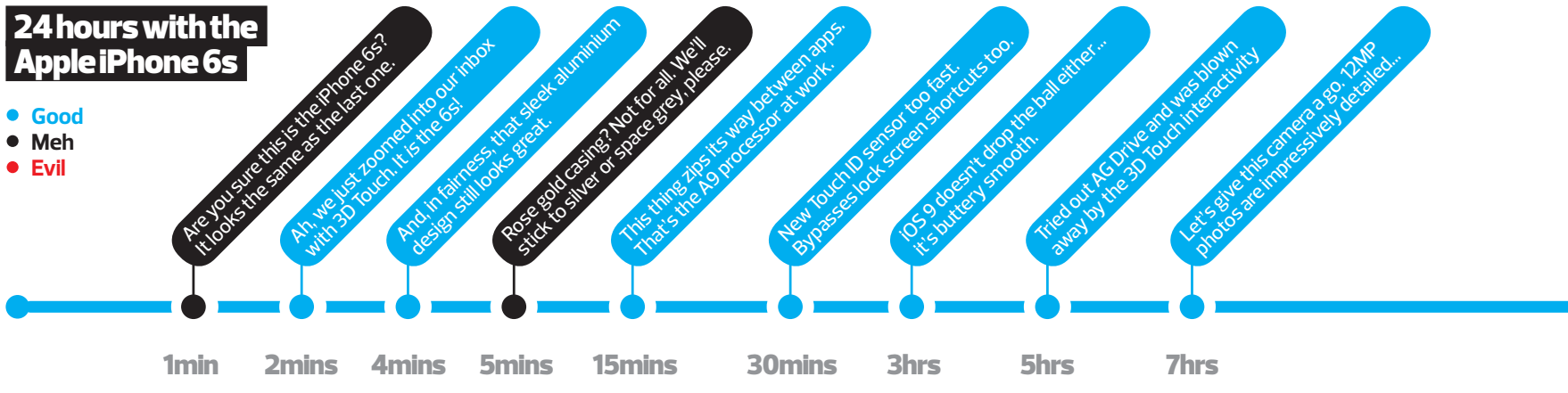
1 The golden Touch
3D Touch gives you a preview of messages by pressing down on them and acts as a shortcut menu for other apps. You'll feel a buzz to let you know your touch has registered. Returning to our old iPhone 6, we found ourselves forlornly prodding it in vain.

2 Finally, more megapixels!
The 6s's updated 12MP camera captures sharper photos than the 6's 8MP effort, allowing you to zoom in and pick out the finer details in pictures. The Live Photos feature is also surprisingly delightful. Apple insiders say soon Facebook will support it too.

3 Chips off the old block
According to our tests, the 6s and its A9 processor proved nearly twice as fast as a year-old iPhone 6's A8 chip. That'll be reason enough for some to upgrade. Touch ID is doubly quick too: the moment you press Home, you're launched straight into your phone.

24 hours with the Apple iPhone 6s

- Good
- Meh
- Evil





Tech specs

Screen 4.7in Retina HD 1334x750 (326ppi) **OS** iOS 9
Processor Apple A9 **Cameras** 12MP rear, 5MP front
Battery 1715mAh **Storage** 16/64/128GB **RAM** 2GB
Dimensions 138x67x7.1mm **Weight** 143g

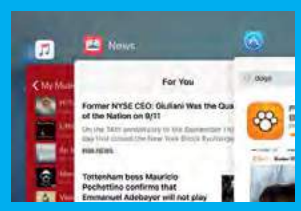
iOS 9 explained

Apple's latest OS upgrade includes many features we've waited a long time for. Here's four of them:



Siri gets serious

The Siri Suggestions screen presents you with a search field (which you can use with either text or your voice) plus a panel of your most used contacts, local services and local news. Handy.



Smooth operator

Mercifully, iOS 9 is every bit as slick as iOS 8.4. Apps open and load quickly, and the swipe between homescreens is instantaneous. And that's a state of affairs that should only improve.



Almost Evernote

Notes finally lets you jot down just about anything into a page, from a Word doc to a PDF to a bookmark clipped from Safari. You can also switch between typing and drawing in seconds.

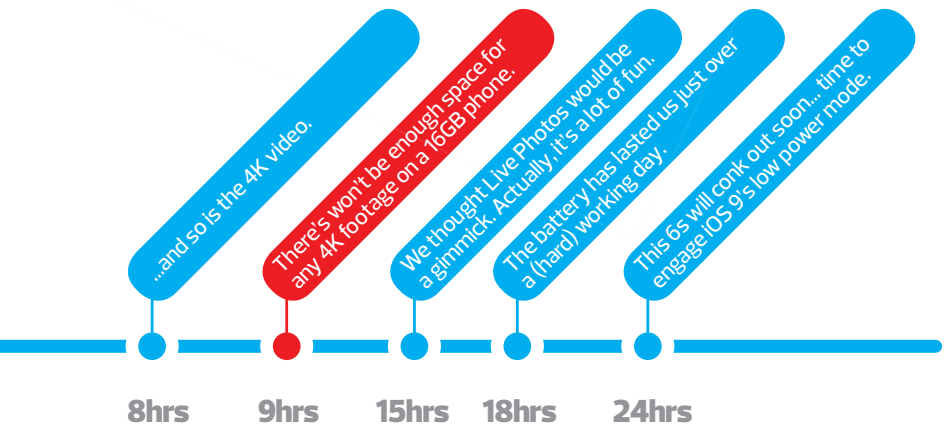


Information overload

Ever-increasing list of widgets available for the notification centre means you can spend minutes on the iPhone even before unlocking the iPhone. Truecaller search, Amazon and more are truly useful.

4 4K store bore
The 6s's 4K video is amazingly detailed, but it comes at a storage price. One minute of video will claw away 375MB, which will turn off owners of a 16GB model from using the feature. Spend ₹72K on a 64GB handset and you'll have no such trouble.

5 Battery flattery
Although the iPhone 6s sports a smaller 1715mAh battery than the iPhone 6, its performance is largely unchanged thanks to the power-economic magic of iOS 9. We pummelled the 6s with video and gaming apps for 10 hours and it still had a third of its life left.





There are always cynics and as far as this iteration of the iPhone goes, so was I to be honest. For it's asking price (in India), the 6s is just too familiar to the now older iPhone 6. But spending a few minutes with it changes the perception dramatically. 3D Touch makes you wonder how you ever lived without it while the camera just keeps getting better. *@nishantpadhiar*

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

The 6s is a refined step forward that feels its worth. Buy it not to impress but be impressed by it.

Multi-Media Systems



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Mighty Merc

Thirty years since it first broke cover, the G-wagon is still breaking new ground. This time, in a crazy colour!

₹2.17 crore / mercedes-benz.co.in





■ Even before your eyes widen in disbelief, your ears will signal the arrival of the mighty Merc. The G63 AMG now comes with a 5.5lt twin-turbo V8 under the hood that puts a mind-boggling 760Nm on the tarmac. Or loose dirt. Three lockable differentials ensure that no situation is tough enough for this Merc. Wearing the Alien Green crazy colour, it's recipe for mass destruction and constant smiles.

■ You get 8in of ground clearance along with a meaty growl that is ready to scare pedestrians and fellow motorists on demand. Its 571bhp of power is only useable off-road though. The ladder frame chassis doesn't inspire confidence out on the open motorway when stretching that AMG engine, the steering offering minimal feedback and with more play than Moby.

■ For its comically archaic exterior styling, the G63 is as plush as any modern Merc on the inside. That includes rear seat entertainment, paddle shifts with AMG shift selector, rear-view camera, new-generation COMAND system and a Harman Kardon audio system.

■ Capable of doing things that most cars and even SUVs would shiver thinking of, this is a proper off-roader and best in that setting. Urban warrior, it is not.

Tech specs

Engine 5.5lt, V8-Bi Turbo **Transmission** 7-speed AMG SpeedShift **Drivetrain** Full-time 4WD **Power output** 571bhp **Top speed** 210kmph **0-100kph** 5.4secs **Wheels** 275/50 R20 **Dimensions** 4763 x 1760 x 1458mm **Weight** 3200kg



■ Height of luxury

Perched high above sea-level, the G63 offers sublime front seat comfort, including heated and cooled thrones with infinitely adjustable lumbar and bolsters to keep you set firmly on excursions.



■ Ah-My-God gearshift

In typical AMG fashion, the logo is etched on the stubby selector. Gear shifts are quick and the side-firing exhausts cause a riot everytime you slam your right foot on the throttle.

STUFF SAYS Stubborn, loud and go-anywhere SUV that has oodles of charisma ★★★☆☆

Not for the practical buyer but boy is it a tough car to beat!
@nishantpadhiar



Climbing aboard the G-wagon is nothing short of an event. From its bug-eyed front to the characterful indicators mounted atop the hood, it is full of surprises. But the biggest surprise is when you go off-road and start paving your own way. This beast can virtually traverse any terrain while keeping you in utmost comfort. Sure, it won't go fast around a corner but it's loud, ostentatious and green! Isn't that the point?

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Happy hour bar

Back with meaningful changes, the second-generation Philips soundbar is capable of raising a few eyebrows...

₹54,990 / philips.co.in



■ Just a year after cracking a brilliant idea, the "golden ears" at the Philips Fidelio sound lab are back with a better soundbar that promises to adhere to the brands strict norms when it comes to sonic perfection. It may not be the audiophile's choice but it would be dense to dismiss it.

■ Compared to last years HTL-9100, the B5 now has NFC for easier pairing withcompatible devices, a larger midrange driver in the main soundbar and many subtle improvements. But the most significant one is that each detachable surround speaker can also be used individually as a Bluetooth speaker in a different room for a different source!

■ Using the spatial calibration system, the Philips soundbar can adjust its dispersion based on the orientation, so you can mount it on the wall or keep it on the TV table. The surround-on-demand feature works with a Dolby Digital or Dolby Pro-Logic II decoder for added channel separation.

■ Sound quality is rich with enough grunt to shake the floorboards. It's impressive for a system with wireless surround speakers and subwoofer. It can do with more definition, though, but for a single-piece speaker with so much flexibility, frankly, we're blown away! Now if only internet radio was built-in...

Tech specs

Drivers 2 x 3in midrange, 2 x 1in tweeter (soundbar), 1 x 6.5in woofer (sub), 1 x 3in full-range (surround) **Power output** 210W **Connectivity** Optical In, Coaxial In, HDMI in x 2, HDMI out x 1, Aux **Wireless** NFC,Bluetooth



Connected to cover

Two HDMI inputs and an ARC-equipped HDMI output mean that this soundbar is covered. Add optical and analog inputs, and Bluetooth/NFC, and it becomes virtually foolproof. Yes, you can plug in your smartphone too.



Sibling detachment

The two ends of the B5 are detachable and can be fully charged in two hours. Philips claims they last up to 10 hours but we could only get 2-3 in our tests. They attach magnetically to the main soundbar. Brilliant!

STUFF SAYS Philips innovation at its best and this time with respectable sound too! ★★★★★

Aren't actual 5.1 speakers better for surround sound though?
@nishantpadhiar



If your room can accomodate a container full of speakers, by all means go ahead and indulge. But most of us have space and budget constraints, which is where the Fidelio B5 excels. It's been designed to fit in real world spaces with minimal footprinting and maximum versatility. The surround speakers even automatically change modes depending on how they're being used. Easy to use, well-finished and great sounding.

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Moto Mojo

After a long wait, Mahindra has finally conjured the Mojo. Not to be confused with '90s cartoon character Mojo Jojo...

from ₹1,60,500* / mahindramojo.com



Mojo Jojo was a cute and cuddly evil monkey, Mahindra's Mojo is nothing like it. It looks mean, has an appearance of a strix that is ready to hunt. Overblown analogies aside, Mahindra has really nailed the design. It has just the right amount of oomph, but some might still find it a bit over-the-top and evil. We aren't complaining.

But what is really admirable is how the looks and the ride work in tandem. It is an easy-going cruiser when you want a relaxed ride, but twist that right hand a bit and the 295cc mill thrusts you forward with zest even though it weighs 165kg. It is no Duke beater (it's not meant to be), but it has its own charm, or mojo, if you please.

With great power comes great stopping power. The 320mm front and 240mm rear discs make sure you don't get into trouble with PETA for road-killing animals. Pair the manic breaks with the Pirelli Diablo Rosso II tyres and you're clamped to the road. Stability and grip is psychotic on the road, but go off it and things get shaky.

Not too shaky, though. The upside-down forks at the front and the rear gas charged mono shock with an internal floating piston, do a wonderful job of munching potholes. But there is a hint of some black mojo. You can't lean the Mojo too much. You will scrape the beautiful exhausts and the stand, and that is pretty ugly.

Tech specs

Engine 1-cylinder, liquid cooled, 4-stroke, Si **Transmission** 6-speed constant mesh **Power output** 26.8bhp @ 8000rpm **Torque** 3kgm @ 6000rpm **Top speed** 145kmph **Tank capacity** 21-litres **Tyres** 2110/70 x 17 - 150/60 x 17in **Dimensions** 2100x800x1165mm **Weight** 165kg

*Ex-showroom (Introductory), Mumbai



Eye-eye captain

The eye-catching element of the Mojo is the beautifully styled 8mm eyebrow-styled DRLs. The tail lamps get a smattering of 12 LED lights that look stunning.



Double trouble

Wondering why a single cylinder engine needs dual exhausts? Well, someone at Mahindra wanted the exhaust note just right and they have nailed it.



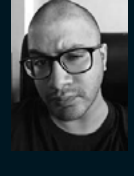
21 till it dies

With a fuel tank that can store 21 litres of petrol, you won't need to visit a petrol pump as often as the others. This is what you call in Hindi a '*lambi race ka ghoda*'.

STUFF SAYS This refined yet manic baby from Mahindra was well worth the wait ★★★★★

Great bike, comfortable ride, creates a new bike segment

@kaizzzad



The Mojo made big news ever since it was a concept almost five years ago. After riding the bike, the wait was totally worth it. It rides like a charm, is extremely comfortable and after about 240km of almost continuous riding, nothing including the gluteal muscles was hurting. For those asking if they should buy it – yes! But I would mod the exhausts so that I could lean a bit more on the bike. Scraping iron isn't always fun.















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Agusta wind

We do like a little speed for supper. The 800 though, is a gobsmacking feast...

₹12lacs (estimated) / mvagusta.com

Interactive page



■ Walk up to the Brutale 800 and you'll notice how its design is that sweet mix of form meets function. The distinctive three-element exhaust pipe is just a hint of the savagery it unleashes with a simple flick of the throttle. But more about that later. The more you look, the more there is to see.

■ Hop on-board and the overall compactness is a serious kicker. Like a tight fist packing a solid punch. The seat's plush design will have you riding long hours, as will the upright position. A whopping eight levels of traction control means you get to tweak your ride to suit your style. Or sanity.

■ Four engine mapping modes (three presets and one custom) let you set the beast up before your ride. Experienced riders will truly appreciate the 'Sport' mode. Let it rip and the 800 will accelerate scarily fast. Better still, it has the brakes to match so you don't need to pray as you twist that throttle.

■ Even the handling department is all tech'd up MotoGP-style with a counter-rotating crankshaft. That means it's a brilliantly balanced machine, this. That also means it'll carve up the twisties like a hot-knife through butter. For a track-focussed machine, the 800 is like a dream on long rides as well.

Tech specs

Engine In-line 3-cylinder, liquid-cooled, 798cc, four-stroke
Transmission 6-speed, 1-down 5-up
Power output 123.3bhp
Fuel tank 16.6litres
Weight 167kg
Power to weight 738.3bhp/tonne
Dimensions 2085x725x1100mm (LxWxH)



■ Engine mapping

Choose between Rain, Sport, Normal and Custom modes to tackle varying conditions. We'd pick Sport for the full experience.



■ Quick Shift mode

Turn this mode on and you'll be flying through the gears clutch-free. Also, because life's too short to press the clutch, really.

STUFF SAYS The hottest naked sports motorcycle in its class that growls gloriously ★★★★★

Great bike, superb noise, but what's up with that price tag?
@kapadiafarhan



Before you balk at its price, a little trivia for the uninitiated. Meccanica Verghara or MV Agusta is a brand founded in 1945, in Milan, and rich in its heritage. The brand holds its place in the most premium categories of racing machines and what you pay for is what you get—one of the most technologically advanced motorcycles in a package that's hard not to fall in love with.

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EOS-y does it

Canon's new entry-level DSLR is supremely simple to use and a spectacularly sharp performer

from ₹49,995 (body only) / canon.co.in

■ Pity the poor DSLR. Five years ago they ruled the photographic roost, but with 13MP now sitting in every pocket and mirrorless cams stealing the hipster market, their territory's being squeezed like a lemon on chicken tikka. Canon's solution? Create what may be the ultimate entry-level snapper.

■ The 750D's big win is in usability. It feels great in the hand and has plenty of physical controls for easy access to the likes of shutter speed and autofocus mode, but also comes with a touchscreen. Plenty of other cams (including its predecessor, the 700D) have one, but this version is impressively responsive and accurate. Add in the fact that the 3in LCD can be flipped out and twisted around, and you have a whole new way of shooting.

■ Picture quality is superb. The 750D has Canon's new 24.2MP CMOS APS-C sensor inside it and it serves up bags of detail in most conditions. You can ramp the ISO up to 800 and hardly see any noise; even 1600 and 3200 are usable. Video quality is fine, but there's no 4K or 1080p @ 60fps here.

■ Autofocus is even better. You get 19 points and it locks on in a flash whether you're shooting through the viewfinder or using Live View on the screen. Do the latter and it'll even continuously focus for you – good for easy subject-tracking, great for video.

Tech specs

Sensor 24.2MP CMOS APS-C **Processor** DIGIC 6 **Autofocus** 19 cross-type points **ISO** 100-12,800 (25,600 in expanded mode) **Display** 3in LCD TFT touchscreen, 1040k-dot **Flash** Built-in **Dimensions** 132x101x78mm, 555g



■ App's the way to do it

Hook up your phone over Wi-Fi and you can use the excellent Camera Connect app to snap away remotely. You get full control over all settings and can easily download images straight to your mobile for easy sharing.



■ Seeing double?

Don't be confused by the almost identical EOS 760D. It's exactly the same on the inside and takes identical pictures but is aimed at experienced shooters, with more manual controls, an extra display on the top and a ₹5K price hike.

STUFF SAYS Remarkably easy to use, with remarkable image quality for the price ★★★★★

But aren't compact system cams a better bet?
stuff_india

CSCs have now surpassed DSLRs in many ways: they're always smaller, usually prettier and sometimes cheaper. But they're not so hot on usability. That's not surprising: it's harder to find room for physical controls on a small body, so settings are often hidden within menus. That won't be a big problem for everyone, but it might be if you're a beginner who wants to learn the basics of photography.

BARKING MAD >> >>WHEELSPINS

We were invited by BMW for the launch of their new X6 M and the X5 M sports SUVs at the Madras Motor Race Track. Then they gave us the keys to the rest of the cars in the 'M' range. Mayhem ensued. Obviously.

[**Words** Yatish Suvarna]

BMW X6 M

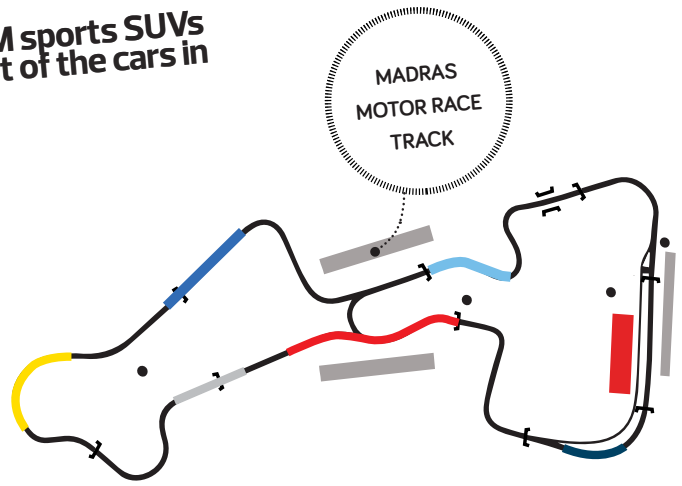
If you need an in-depth presentation of a man-made product defying the laws of physics, you need to see the X6 M go around a track. No matter how hard we tried to push her around the bends, all we got was a bit of correction thanks to the all-wheel drive wizardry and that was it. Oh, and on a straight line, it goes from 0-100km/h in 4.2s, inspite of tipping the scales at 2.2 tons.

₹1.6cr (ex-showroom, Delhi) / bmw.in

BMW X5 M

If someone was to blindfold us and take us around a lap of the MMRT on the X5 M without telling us what car it was. We would imagine the vehicle to be a nimble, track-focussed, race car with precision handling. It is hard to explain in words how good the X5 M handles when pushed to the absolute limit. And those 325/35 wheels on the rear, grip the road like leeches out to prove a point.

₹1.55cr (ex-showroom, Delhi)/ bmw.in



- X6 M bolts to 100 km/h in 4.2s
- X5 M's brilliant brakes and all wheel drive help you stop at the very last second to shoot out of a corner in no time
- M6 makes a mockery of these bends at triple digit speeds
- M4's brilliant dynamics gets you in and out of this bend in a flash
- M5 makes every bit of its 680Nm of torque come to play on these straights
- M3's light sporty setup handles this technical patch with surgical precision



BMW X5 M

Tech specs

Engine BMW M TwinPower Turbo technology, 4.4-litre V8
Transmission eight-speed M Steptronic,
Power output 575bhp
Torque 750Nm
Acceleration 0 - 100 kmph in 4.2s

DIAL M FOR MORE

When the chief instructor informed us that we would get to drive every single car in the 'M' range, around a race track, we did weep a little, thinking about what was to come. First, we hopped into the BMW M3, poked the throttle a bit and the 3-litre V6 poked right back, it was game on. Driving dynamics are swiss-knife sharp and the M3 will urge you to waltz with chicanes, coaxing you to go faster with each passing lap. Then we hunkered into the M4 and things changed, for even better. The car is a wee bit lighter than the M3 and is a weapon of choice if you want to execute the most jaw- dropping drifts, with traction control switched off. We have included a video of just that for your viewing pleasure, Blip it to view it via the Blippar app. Back to the track, it was our time to get inside the M5. As you bolt off, the difference in power delivery is immediate, as the 560 horses propel the car forward and your body backwards. You do feel a bit of the bulk around corners, but the M5, still, is immensely fun to drive. However, if your plan is to absolutely choke the other cars on the track, you will need the M6. It is simply mind-boggling the way this car laps the circuit. The M6 is powered by the same V8 that is used in the M5, but the former is a bit lighter and that makes a bit of a difference on the track. Simply put, you can enter a bend at speeds that could tear an average sedan apart and blast out of it with zero drama and a wicked grin on your face.


M3


M4


M5


M6

BMW X6 M

Tech specs

Engine BMW M TwinPower Turbo technology, 4.4-litre V8
Transmission eight-speed M Steptronic,
Power output 575bhp
Torque 750Nm
Acceleration 0 – 100 kmph in 4.2s

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5 OF THE BEST

Turntables

Whether you're a vinyl virgin or turntable totalitarian, we've got a record deck for every budget, mood and need

BEST FOR...
PURISTS



No specks, please
Dust is a turntable's nemesis; protecting the RP8 means adding a rectangular surround that's dust-cover-compatible.

Rega RP8 with Apheta cartridge ₹2,97,000 / tuskeraudio.com

What's the story?
Rega's more obsessed with shedding pounds than Weight Watchers. It spent three years developing the polyolefin foam that forms the RP8's plinth, which is then covered on the top and bottom with a phenolic skin for extra rigidity and damping. It's super-light and super-strong, and looks ace. You can buy it cartridge-free, but having the Apheta preinstalled at the factory is the way we'd go.

Any good?
The only issue some might have with the skeletal design is that the foam material is visible around the edges, but that could lead to some fascinating dinner party conversation about damping vibrations. Either way, the design pays off, because this record player sounds exceptional.

There's such an unbelievable amount of detail here that every sliver of texture and emotion is revealed in full – listen really carefully and you can probably work out how many beers the guitarist has had. The punchiness of the delivery is also unparalleled; if you just want to lose yourself in music, it's an outstanding option.

TECH SPECS
Speeds 33, 45
Electric speed change Yes
Phono amp No **Cartridge** Optional
USB port No **Dust cover** No
Dimensions 12x45x36cm

STUFF SAYS A design that sounds every bit as stunning as it looks ★★★★★



Hue and cry
The glossy black and white finishes were apparently chosen to match Sonos kit... but isn't Sonos more matte than that?

BEST FOR... SONOS OWNERS

Flexson VinylPlay ₹33,126* / flexson.com

What's the story?
Producing a record player initially appears an odd move for a company that describes itself as a maker of accessories for Sonos, but Flexson seems to have decided that modern multi-room streaming doesn't have to exclude old-school analogue hi-fi.

To that end, there's an integrated phono stage with analogue outputs, and all of the cables required to connect to a Sonos Play:5, Connect or Connect:Amp, as well as almost any other bit of audio kit. There's also a USB output for recording directly to your computer.

Any good?
A simple design, clear instructions and optional but very helpful YouTube videos make setting up the VinylPlay easier than finding Vada pav at a station. Once you've connected to one Sonos device (if that's the route you decide to take), you can stream your records to all the others in your house.

Underneath the Flexson branding this is clearly a Rega turntable, and considering how well regarded those are, that's a very good thing. All told, then, the VinylPlay makes for a very fine, detailed and engaging listen, and a nice upgrade for Sonos fans.

TECH SPECS
Speeds 33, 45
Electric speed change No
Phono amp Yes **Cartridge** Included **USB port** Yes
Dust cover Included
Dimensions 12x44x25cm

STUFF SAYS The perfect first turntable for the modern music fan ★★★★★



Material gains
If the silver edge isn't classy enough for you, don't panic, you can have wood instead.

BEST FOR... KEEPING IT SIMPLE

Clearaudio Concept ₹94,600 / fxentertainment.in

What's the story?
Pictures don't really do the Clearaudio Concept justice, with its virtuous simplicity perhaps coming across as ever so slightly boring. In the flesh, though, there's no denying it's lovely – all clean lines, tough, elegantly machined materials and a single hefty dial for controlling speed.

Best of all, especially for the beginner, everything is set up by the factory. No messing with cartridge weight and bias; connect the drive belt and slot the platter on, and you're good to go. It's as plug-and-play as turntables get.

Any good?
If your idea of records is that they always sound as warm and soft as a pillow fresh from a spot of summer airing, the Concept will provide a bit of a surprise. The expected flow and fluidity is there, but there's also the sort of party-popping energy and crispness that you'd more likely expect from a high-fidelity digital file. It has great tonal balance, from the sweetest highs to the gut-wobbling lows.

But bear in mind there's no built-in phono stage, and you'll need to fork out for a separate one that will do the Concept justice. If you do, though, you won't regret it.

TECH SPECS
Speeds 33, 45, 78
Electric speed change Yes
Phono amp No **Cartridge** Included **USB port** No
Dust cover Included
Dimensions 13x42x35cm

STUFF SAYS Sweet sounds and simplicity make the Concept a stunner ★★★★★

Audio-Technica AT-LP1240USB

₹38,000 / bajaao.com

What's the story?

If you want your record deck to be a little less tweed jacket and more whizz-bang, this Audio-Technica should fit the bill. Clearly derived from the legendary Technics 1210 DJ decks, the catchily named AT-LP1240USB is designed to combine hi-fi sound quality with super-rugged construction and DJ features such as direct drive, electric speed change, start/stop/reverse buttons, a slider for pitch, and more lights than any airport's landing strip. Line up two of these and you'll at least *look* like a vinyl master.

Any good?

This deck is built for a life on the road and the adjustable feet offer a decent amount of isolation from the sort of vibrations a pumping club will produce. All the buttons are clear and solid so it really doesn't take long to get into the DJing groove. There are also USB outputs for laying down tracks direct to your computer.

In pure sound quality terms it's good, but a little behind some similarly priced hi-fi turntables. But this is a pro deck, as much for making music as playing it, and in that arena it excels.

TECH SPECS

Speeds 33, 45, 78
Electric speed change Yes
Phono amp Yes **Cartridge** Not included **USB port** Yes
Dust cover Included
Dimensions 7x45x35cm

Needling issue

The AT-LP1240USB doesn't come with a cartridge, but a decent one can be picked up for cheap.



BEST FOR... **BATTLING DJs**

STUFF SAYS A classic DJ-friendly design, and it also sounds good ★★★★☆

Pro-ject Essential II

from ₹30,900 / audio-one.in

What's the story?

Pro-ject is a master at producing top-notch affordable turntables, and the Essential II is a classic. This isn't about fancy tech or next-gen materials; it's about getting the best build and sound possible for a really tasty price. So you'll need to manually shift the drive belt to switch speeds (but at least you don't have to remove the platter for that), and this basic version doesn't have any digital outputs (although USB and optical versions are available for a bit more money). It does come with an Ortofon cartridge and a quiet, smooth motor.

Any good?

Setup is easy, but like many turntables, this one is sensitive to vibrations – so make sure it's got solid support. If you take the time to get that right, the sound is unbelievably good for the money. If you're going from MP3s to vinyl for the first time, you'll be stunned by the detail, not to mention the dynamic shifts from quiet to loud and the overall scale of the presentation.

This is a really solid all-rounder that's as happy with Blur as it is with Bach, and may well reveal hidden depths in both.

TECH SPECS

Speeds 33, 45, 78
Electric speed change No
Phono amp No **Cartridge** Included **USB port** No
Dust cover Included
Dimensions 11x42x33cm

A shade not pricy

The good folk at Audio One don't charge you extra for a different finish. With black as standard, there's red and white too.



BEST FOR... **VINYL VIRGINS**

STUFF SAYS Vinyl newbies on a shoestring budget, this is the deck for you ★★★★★





Nikon

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MRP: ₹ 84,950/-*



D5200
Body MRP: ₹ 28,450/-
VR Kit (18-55mm)
MRP: ₹ 33,950/-*



D3200
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K&L Arms/10/15

2 close to the Edge?

₹24,999





₹57,900

The OnePlus 2 takes on the Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge+, and it's a much closer battle than you might think

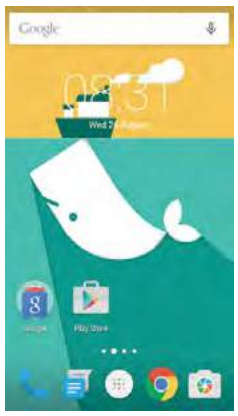
Have high-end smartphones lost the plot? Looking at the price of the Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge+, you could think so: the RRP of the top-end 64GB version is over ₹65,000.

There's an antidote, though. It's the OnePlus 2, a phone that has similar specs to flagship phones costing upwards of ₹50,000, but with a price that starts under ₹25,000.

We've been using both phones side by side, putting our plucky bargain blower against one of the most expensive phones on the high street. You might be surprised at how well the cheaper OnePlus 2 comes off in the comparison.

But what do you lose by paying half the price?

DESIGN



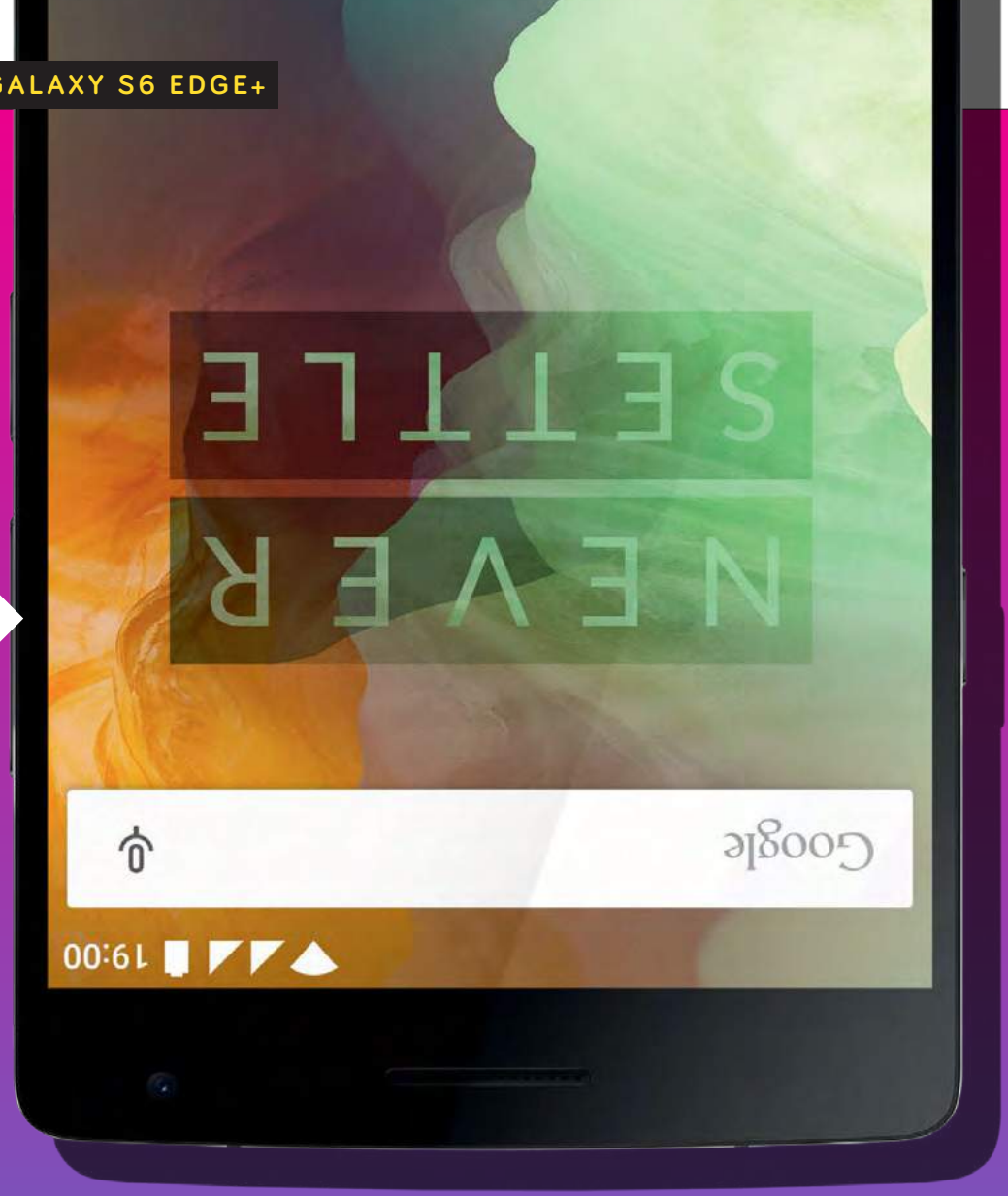
Felt and braces

The OnePlus 2 has a neat band of metal around the sides and a back of furry, felt-like plastic, which can be replaced with wood or even kevlar. It's thicker than the Samsung at 9.9mm, but as it's also less wide thanks to its smaller display, so it doesn't seem bulkier. A tough Gorilla Glass 4 screen and a good fingerprint scanner give it a feeling of real quality. **8/10**

DISPLAY

The colour of (a lot less) money

This phone has a great display, but it's not quite as good as the Samsung's. Rather than a Super AMOLED screen, it uses an IPS LCD of the sort found on iPhones and many others; it's 90% as good as the Samsung, but real screen snobs will be able to tell the difference at a glance. Resolution is also a lot lower than the mighty QHD display of the Edge+, although from a metre away you'd actually be hard pressed to notice. Outdoor visibility isn't quite as good, and it's a little smaller. Still, the OnePlus 2 has a great screen with a nice, natural-looking colour tone. **8/10**



DESIGN

Plus points

This is perhaps the most luxurious phone Samsung has ever made. The front has no seams, just a single luscious curve of Gorilla Glass 4. It's very slim at 6.9mm, albeit with a camera bump, and the fingerprint scanner is fast and accurate. Its non-expandable storage may add to the expense, so choose carefully. **10/10**



DISPLAY

Screen of dreams

Samsung is the true master of screens, and this 5.7in, 2560x1440-pixel (QHD) display is about the best it has ever produced. The Super AMOLED tech gives it superb contrast, as each pixel lights itself. Colour is great and it's also adjustable, from the eye-meltingly saturated to natural and accurate. What we appreciate the most, though, is its amazing outdoor visibility. The main event is the curve, which looks great and can be genuinely useful – a flick on the side brings up a drawer of apps and contacts. It's neat, although nothing you can't mimic with a well-customised homescreen. **10/10**



PERFORMANCE

Power on a budget

Not only does the OnePlus 2 use a Snapdragon 810, Qualcomm's top-end mobile chip, it also boasts 4GB of RAM. In use the OnePlus feels just as lag-free as the Edge+. It gets warm more readily, but doesn't overheat. There's no microSD slot, so the 64GBs of internal storage is all you have to manage with. The chunky 3300mAh battery is pretty large for a 1080p phone – play games, browse the web, listen to music and get snap-happy with the camera, and you'll have drained it by bedtime, but for normal use a solid day and a half between charges is realistic. **8/10**

Power on tap

While both phones sit atop the Android league with octa-core CPUs and 4GB RAM apiece, the Edge+ has a special Samsung-made brain that runs faster and cooler. As a result this phone is almost perfectly lag-free, and even the interface feels turbocharged. Unlike the OnePlus, you can have 32GB or 64GB of storage, and again we'd advise going the extra mile. The Edge+'s battery is smaller, but in use it actually lasts longer thanks to software optimisation: left playing a 720p video file, it lasts almost 16 hours. Better still, its super-fast charging will take it to 80% in around 30 minutes. **8/10**

CAMERA



Here be lasers

The 13MP sensor may have a lower resolution than the Samsung's, but it does have optical image stabilisation and laser-assisted focusing, which judges how far away your subject is. The biggest difference to image quality comes down to the HDR mode. Where the S6 Edge+ has excellent HDR that can be used to tweak photos, the OnePlus 2's mode is either on or off, and in tricky lighting it can blow up the colours to make the scene look unnatural. **8/10**

Speedy snaps

As well as being the king of screens, Samsung has a pretty good claim to the phone camera crown. The rear camera has a larger 16MP sensor, and it's backed by optical image stabilisation for low light. But the main advantage it has is speed: it can take photos in quick succession. It's bags of fun to shoot with, and image quality is fantastic, with tons of detail. For more serious snappers, the Edge+ can even shoot Photoshop-friendly RAW images. **9/10**



SOFTWARE

Space to breathe

The OnePlus 2's custom interface, Oxygen, is designed to look and feel just like the default version of Android. So what's different? It offers lots of tweaks and customisations under the surface, giving you the feel of a Nexus with the features of a phone made for power users. These include things like being able to fiddle with the position of the soft keys, altering how many apps are on the homescreen and the style of icons. The top calling card is simplicity. The fact that you get few preinstalled apps is a real boon for those who hate the idea of being cajoled into using certain apps by Samsung. **9/10**

Touch of class

These days, the TouchWiz UI is tasteful, fast and easy to use – it doesn't bombard your eyeballs with too much data. Samsung seems to have finally learned what a classy UI is all about. You can give the software an instant overhaul with themes, giving your Edge+ a new visual personality. Some of them are pretty ropey, but we like Samsung Briefing, which gives you a stream of digital goodies. Not everyone is going to like all the extra apps, though, and you can only 'disable' rather than uninstall them. Still, while there are lots of extra features, it doesn't feel overburdened by them. **8/10**

TECH SPECS
OS Android Lollipop with OxygenOS
Screen 5.5in 1920x1080 (401ppi)
Processor Snapdragon 810
RAM 4GB **Storage** 32/64GB
Cameras 13MP, 5MP **Battery** 3300mAh
Dimensions 152x75x9.9mm, 175g



STUFF SAYS ★★★★★
For the money, you just can't quibble with the OnePlus 2 – it's a bona fide bargain

Hoping we'd tell you the OnePlus 2 does absolutely everything better than a ₹57,900+ Samsung? Sorry, we can't. However, look back and forth at your bank balance and those differences, and you can only conclude the OnePlus is a better buy.

It's not so flashy, with a more ordinary screen and a slower, less detailed camera. But at almost every turn it gives you 90% of the good stuff for less than 50% of the cost. We don't think Samsung's suddenly going to catch on and make a gangbuster Android bargain like the OnePlus 2, so maybe it's time to forget the big brands for once and side with the little guy.

There's one problem: you can't just walk into a shop and buy a OnePlus 2. You have to apply for an invite to buy one online. Still, those who make the effort will be rewarded.

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★
The Edge+ may be expensive, but it's also one of the best phones you can buy



TECH SPECS
OS Android Lollipop with TouchWiz UI
Screen 5.7in 2560x1440 (518 ppi)
Processor Exynos 7420
RAM 4GB **Storage** 32/64GB
Cameras 16MP, 5MP **Battery** 3000mAh
Dimensions 154x75x6.9mm, 153g

App:roved

FOR TEXTY TITIANS

TypeDrawing

When touchscreens arrived, people derided the notion of virtual finger-painting because that was 'for children'. The fools! Being able to directly manipulate on-screen canvases with a digit changed creativity in exciting ways. In this app, your digital paintings comprise user-defined text strings, the characters sized by the speed of your strokes. An iOS classic now on Android, it's free, but IAP can remove the ads and get you more fonts.

Stuff says ★★★★☆
from £free / Android;
$1.99 / iPhone; $2.99 / iPad



FOR THOUGHT CONTROL

MindNode

No need to flip back to the cover to check if you accidentally picked up *Business Stuff Digest* — yes, we really are covering a mind-mapping app. But that's because MindNode is perfect for sorting your thoughts, no matter what kind of thinking you happen to be involved with. The branching diagrams are easy to create on Mac or iOS and can have images and 'hidden' notes applied; there's even an Apple Watch app for browsing recent documents in outline view.

Stuff says ★★★★★
$9.99 / iOS; $29.99 / OS X

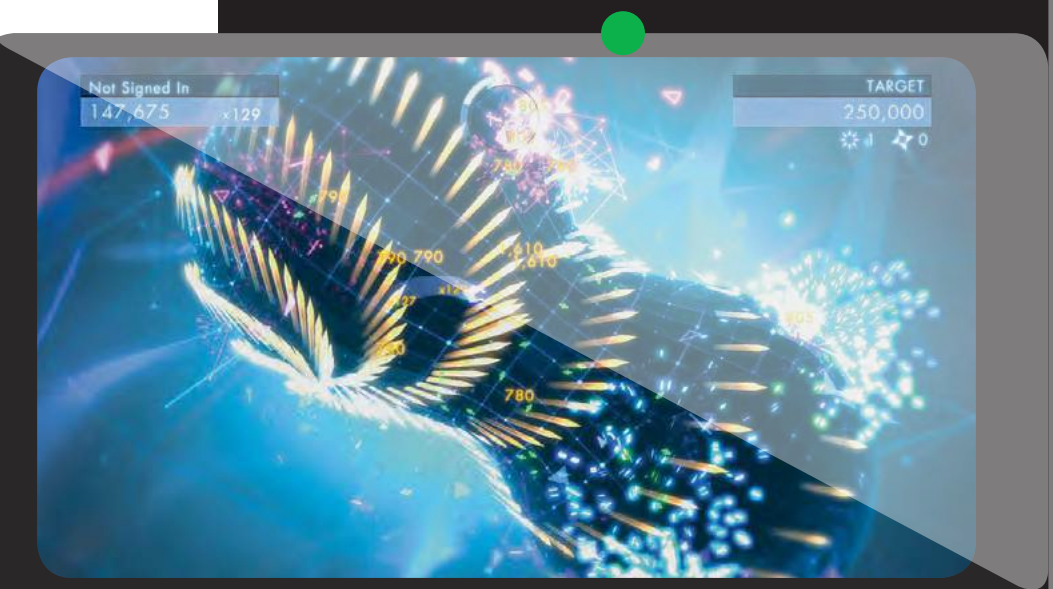


FOR ARCADE ANARCHY

Geometry Wars 3: Dimensions

On the surface, this is the same *Robotron*-inspired twin-stick shooty action that arcade fans have loved since the dawn of the series. You zoom about, blowing away all manner of kamikaze shapes; but this entry isn't all about flat arenas — it now has a three-dimensional element. It looks fantastic, sounds great and has pitch-perfect controls. This is console-quality gaming on your phone that's simple to get into but a challenge to master.

Stuff says ★★★★★
₹330 / Android; ₹300 / iOS



FOR BUILDING A BOAT

You Must Build A Boat

This is a ferocious and hugely entertaining mash-up of endless running and match-three, with a smattering of RPG levelling up. It involves sprinting through dungeons, your actions being driven by tile matches — keys unlock chests full of bling, and swords let you get all stabby. If you're forced off screen, you count your swag, upgrade your capabilities, recruit new crew members... and are another step closer to building that boat.

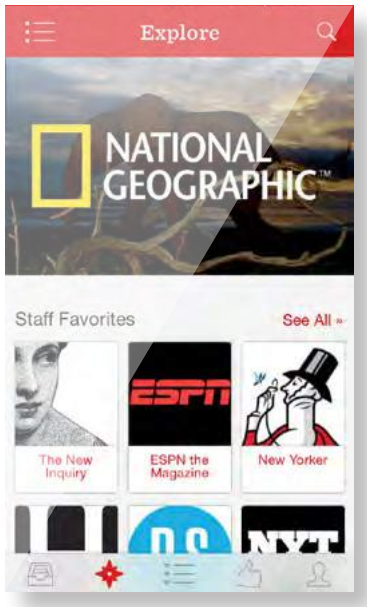
Stuff says ★★★★★
₹200 / Android; ₹190 / iOS



Mini meme

HAVE WE GOT NEWS FOR YOU...

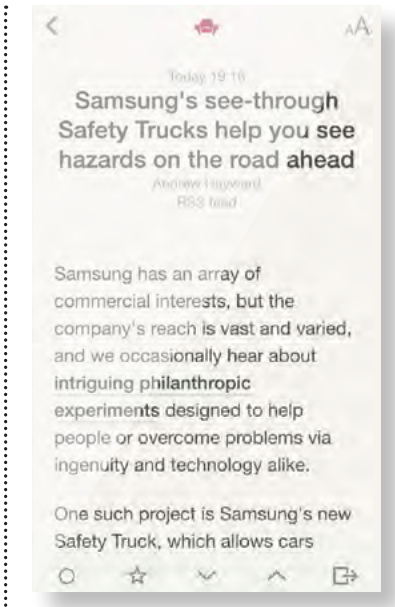
iOS fans don't need to wait for Apple's News, and Android won't be getting it anyway – so install these apps instead to stay in the know



Longform

The idea here is to buck the trend of bite-sized online articles and get people reading news stories with depth. The app sometimes comes across like a worthy Twitter, but there's something great about it only listing articles of 2000 words or more; it's ideal for people who don't have a short attention... *SQUIRREL!* Sorry, attention span.

Stuff says ★★★★☆
₹free / iOS



Reeder

For when Feedly isn't enough, there's Reeder – well, at least there is if you've got an iPhone. The app's a stylish and smart way to browse and read RSS feeds, and the built-in 'Readability' view strips articles to copy and images alone. Apple might bang on about animations and bling, but we just want the words, man.

Stuff says ★★★★☆
₹300 / iOS



Feedly

When Google set fire to Google Reader, Feedly heroically took over, providing a robust, free way to subscribe to website RSS feeds. The world might look on in scorn from their Twitters and their Facebooks, but you'll use this app and know you're not missing important news due to an inundation of lolcat GIFs.

Stuff says ★★★★☆
₹free / Android, iOS



Instapaper

Uniquely for this round-up, Instapaper isn't designed to bring the news to you – you send the news to Instapaper, via a browser shortcut. It's essentially, then, a PVR for saved articles, also stripping out junk to leave pure text and images. Got nothing to send? The 'Browse' section has you covered.

Stuff says ★★★★★
₹free / Android, iOS



Digg

Once the darling of the internet, social news site Digg fell on hard times and had to do the web equivalent of busking for pennies. Its current incarnation on mobile, dating from a 2012 relaunch, is very smart indeed. The app is simple but sleek, and the feeds feel as though they've been edited for you by actual humans.

Stuff says ★★★★☆
₹free / Android, iOS



Flipboard

Apple News is clearly heavily inspired by Flipboard, so go for the original, which is also on Android. Follow people and topics! Compile and share custom mags! Get irritated by the gimmick that pretends scrolling doesn't exist! You can also browse Twitter timelines, which is weird but oddly good.

Stuff says ★★★★☆
₹free / Android, iOS, Windows Phone

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MEDIATEK
everyday genius



Mobilize
Your Workforce

GT500 LTE (4G) / TITAN7 / TITAN5

GT500 LTE (4G)

- 5“ TFT LCD 1280 x 720 HD resolution
- Optimized battery life up to 8 hours
- Pogo pin interface

TITAN7

- 7.85” TFT color LCD 1024 x 768 HD resolution
- Optimized battery life up to 8 hours
- 1.2m (4ft.) drop resistance

TITAN5

- 5.5” TFT color LCD 1280 x 720 HD resolution
- Optimized battery life up to 6 hours
- 1.5m (5ft.) drop resistance





Warehouse Management

- Real time tracking of incoming and outgoing shipments while storing and overseeing inventory information

Medical

- Real time data access everywhere
- Integrates EMR/HER data into day-to-day patient care delivery





Retail

- Integrating multiple sales channels to provide fast and easy, price and inventory checks

Logistics

Drop and shock resistant form factor and features like barcode scanner, RFID, 3G, and GPS

TITAN7 Accessories


Thermal Printer


Desk Mount


Car Mount


Holster

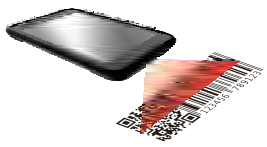
TITAN5 Accessories


Thermal Printer


Cradle


Docking


Holster

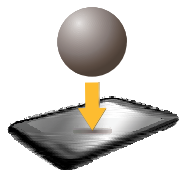


Data Capture

NFC | RFID | 1D or 1D/2D Barcode Reader

Durability

IP-65 Sealing | 5 ft. Drop (T5)/4 ft. Drop (T7) | MIL-STD 810G | -10~50°C/14~122°F OP temp





Node Watch

Mobile Device Management | Firmware Upgrade | Over the Air Program | Enterprise Grade Solutions

Connectivity

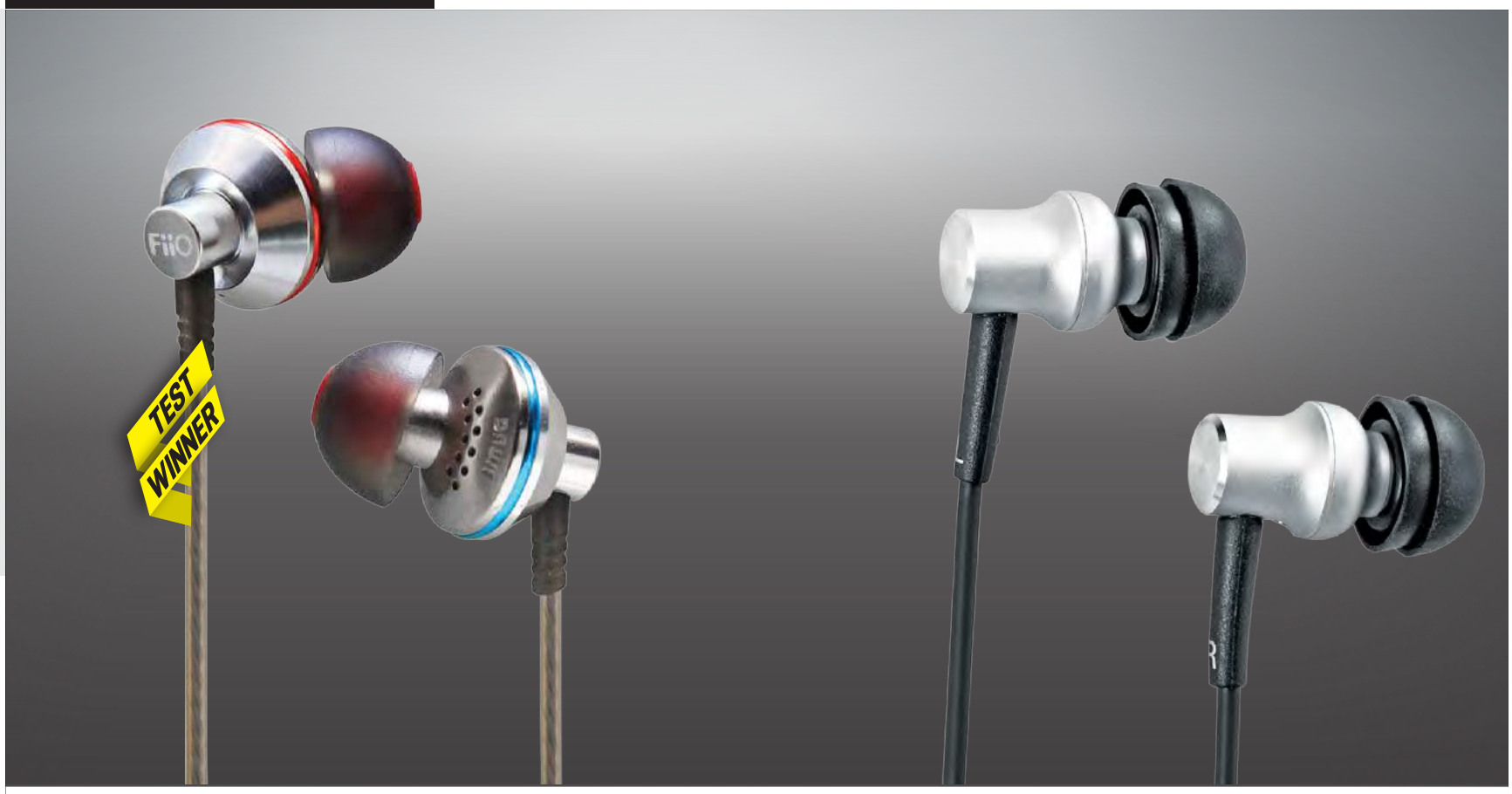
4G/3G Dual SIM support | WiFi | Bluetooth 4.0 | GPS



Features

Fully rugged form factor, IP-65 certified | Projected capacitive multi-touch panel with Corning® Gorilla® Glass compliant | High mobility with multiple-connectivity including WLAN, Bluetooth and WWAN | G-sensor, Gyroscope, Light sensor, E-compass, GPS navigation & Barometer | Field replaceable battery | MIL-STD-810G compliant | Built-in 1D barcode reader or 2D barcode reader | System access control via RFID/NFC reader.

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Audio newbies fight to monitor your ear

FiiO EX1

VS

HiFi Man RE-400

1. BUILD

It's love at first sight with the FiiO EX1. Overstepping the Rs. 5k mark, these IEMs are made from anodised duralumin and feel satisfyingly weighty. The fit? Good enough to challenge gloves and their hold on the idiom.

The RE-400, at first glance, doesn't resonate the persona of an in-ear monitor that costs almost ₹5k. It looks as bland as British food. But get personal with it and the light weight and comfortable fit annihilate all doubts.

2. HARDWARE

Aerospace -grade nanotech titanium diaphragm driver, non-resonating metal body with "beehive" style tuning ports and OFC copper cabling intertwined with kevlar fibre strands for a durable cable – these better be good.

Read a little about it and you start to understand where the masala has been applied. The RE-400 packs in a titanium diaphragm, neodymium magnet and OFC copper cabling. Does all that resonate into good sound quality?

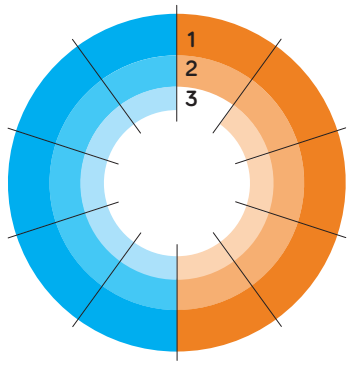
3. PERFORMANCE

Our suspicions, bouyed by its build and write up have come true! The EX1 is amazing overall and can hold its own as a true in-ear monitor. Detailed, with an airy soundstage, the only concern is a slight lean towards the low-end.

In a word, yes! The RE-400 sounds exactly how a monitor should sound. It doesn't bring any particular frequency to the fore and is balanced throughout. A lack of bass is evident but that is compensated by dollops of detail on offer here.

Drivers 13mm nanotech titanium diaphragm
Frequency Response 20~30 kHz
Sensitivity 102dB
Impedance 16 Ohms
Cable Length 1.2m
Plug 3.5mm gold-plated

● **Price ₹5799** / origingames.in



Drivers 8.5mm titanium-coated
Frequency Response 15~22 kHz
Sensitivity 102dB
Impedance 32 Ohms
Cable Length 1.33m
Plug 3.5mm

● **Price ₹4851** / hifinage.com

★★★★★ STUFF SAYS ★★★★☆

The EX1 edges the RE-400 simply because it's a more dynamic and enjoyable listen overall

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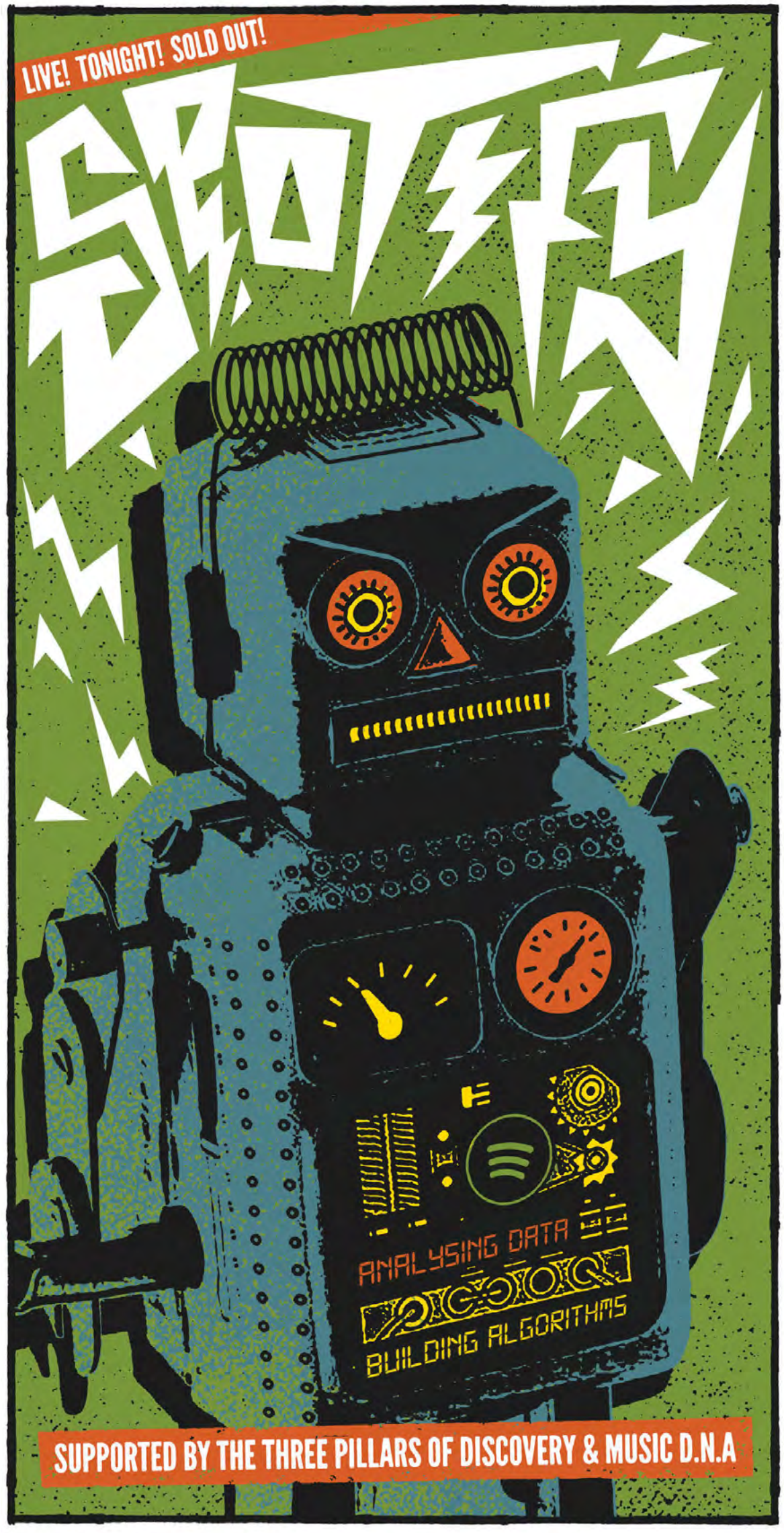
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ILLUSTRATIONS: WETHREECLUB



B

ack in 2014, a website appeared called Forgotify. It existed for one reason only: to get the four million songs on Spotify that nobody on earth had ever listened to a keen set of ears.

Forgotify works by scouring Spotify's catalogue for songs with a popularity rating of zero (about 20% of them) and picking one at random for the user to listen to. As soon as it's been heard once it is taken off Forgotify's database; but with new music being added to Spotify all the time, Forgotify's makers say the list of neglected tunes is very gradually growing longer.

This is not a problem unique to Spotify. The streaming Swedes claim that only 20% of the music on a certain download store (one that rhymes with 'Pie Tunes') has ever actually been bought, which makes Forgotify's numbers look distinctly healthy.

The thing is, Spotify's right. In an age where somebody can, to paraphrase Craig David, make an album in their bedroom on Monday and have it available to stream to anyone in the world by Wednesday, there's more music available to us than ever before – and on top of that, accessing it all at a very low cost.

Too much choice?

This means many music fans suffer from a kind of decision fatigue. When you've got all the music in the world, it's difficult to decide what to listen to, so you fall back on the stuff you're already familiar with. Did someone say #firstworldproblems?

"I think the vast amount of music is an opportunity, not a problem," says Dave Rowntree, a solicitor, animator, pilot, politician, radio DJ and, when he gets time, drummer for Britpop legends Blur, "but streaming services are some of the worst music discovery platforms I've ever seen. As a music



Blur's Dave Rowntree (second left) believes music streaming platforms don't offer much in the way of discovery

resource, Spotify's one of the best in the world, but look at its recommendations: if you play a Blur track it tells you that you might also like Pulp and Oasis. No! Really?''

Ouch. Dave has a point, although *Stuff* can't help thinking he's being a little harsh. Pick a lesser-known band and its algorithm does a decent job of picking out some similar artists, and it's at that level where discovery is possibly most important. It's also just a tiny part of Spotify's discovery strategy – and, arguably, its dumbest.

Can you feel the algorithm?

Miles Lennon is Spotify's product manager and from his desk in New York he explains to *Stuff* how the company combines its three pillars of discovery, of which its algorithm is just one. It's designed to analyse the 'music DNA' of a track and, combined with the taste profiles Spotify has built from every user's listening history, can be used to populate the personalised playlists that its latest version offers listeners at different times of the day.

Fire up Spotify in the early evening and the Now menu will offer you playlists created by human beings (Miles calls them musicologists) with titles like Mellow Dinner, or Farm To Table Folk & Acoustic. Apart from having names that sound like tracks from *Now That's What I Call Organic Supermarket* they do a reasonable job. Obviously they're not all bespoke; it's more a case of Spotify picking the most relevant ones for you from the thousands that have been created, and the further you delve into them the less relevant they get, but Spotify says this will improve with use.

But Dave's still not convinced: ''I don't think there's any value in coming up with a magic algorithm to draw connections between music. The connections between songs are deeper, they're not mechanical.'' *Stuff* reckons writing off algorithms altogether is a bit naive, but again he's got a point. Take BBC 6 Music, for example, a station that can play Coati Mundi one minute and The Stone Roses the next without either feeling out of place. Can you write an algorithm that can do that? Probably not. But that's why Spotify also has a built-in social network, which includes the sidebar of shame/fame that tells other users what you're listening to.

"I think the connections between songs are deeper than using an algorithm; they're not mechanical"



Word of mouth

It turns out human beings are kind of important when it comes to music. They're the ones who make it, who listen to it, and they tell each other ▶

BETTER OFF FORGOTTEN?

We listened to four random tracks via Forgotify to see if they were unplayed for a reason...



A Safer Place
Gene Burnett
An inoffensive but largely forgettable acoustic strummer, *A Safer Place* comes from one of Burnett's 27 albums available on Spotify, which doesn't bode well for the whole 'throw enough sh*t and eventually something sticks' approach.
Verdict Bin it



Actually
The Names
Belgian post-punk is the kind of thing you'd expect only the most ardent 'tache-twiddling hipster to be into, but The Names worked closely with Martin Hannett (of Joy Division and Factory Records fame)... although clearly this is no *Love Will Tear Us Apart*.
Verdict Spin it



Farewell Words
Jiang Dawei
Jiang Dawei is a Chinese folk singer (we Googled him). Considering Spotify isn't available in China, it's not hugely surprising that *Farewell Words* has never been listened to (until now!) – and now it's been removed from Forgotify it may never be listened to again.
Verdict Bin it



Sabre Dance
Berlin Trombone Quartet
Sabre Dance is a traditional Armenian tune often used in fast-paced TV chase scenes but when played on a quartet of trombones it takes on a vaguely comedic quality, like the sound of four overweight men racing to get the last pasty in Greggs.
Verdict Spin it

HOW TO... BACK YOUR FAVOURITE NEW BAND

Music Glue

Music Glue allows any band – from banjo-bothering festival headliners Mumford & Sons to your one-man Wu-Tang Clan trumpet covers band – to sell songs, CDs (remember them?), gig tickets and merch easily. Bands can even customise their page so it looks like their own.
musicglue.com

PledgeMusic

PledgeMusic's Kickstarter-esque campaigns give fans a place to help fund a band's next record. They can offer added extras such as T-shirts, posters and gig tickets in return for varying sums of cash – it's even been used by Megadeth and The Darkness.
pledgemusic.com

Whats Hot: Events Nearby

Here's an app and site that offers a tad more than just the great gigs under the sky. It offers editorially curated discovery and exploration lists for events, concerts, drama, standup comedy and covers many other areas of interest. A must have for all.
whatshot.in

Yahavi

This Delhi based talent discovery platform helps local talent get out and reach their fanbase. Completed with Blogs, Events and a portfolio of upcoming artists, the website is a go-to place for those looking for new and undiscovered local talent. The events are only Delhi-based as of now, though.**yahavi.com**



about it. Usually the ones you pay most attention to are the ones you know; the ones whose tastes you trust because you've bonded over the same songs, gigs and records. That's why Spotify creates a chart of tracks that are popular among your friends that updates every day – which is all well and good, but for lots of people there's a certain pleasure to be gained from being the first of your friends to discover a new band.

SoundCloud has a reputation as a platform for wannabes to pimp their wares, and to an extent that's true – according to *Billboard* only 20% of SoundCloud's music comes from labels – but it doesn't tell the full story. "Historically what helped attract people to SoundCloud was that many artists used it to upload stuff before it was finished to get feedback," says Sylvain Grande, SoundCloud's VP of Product, "but we're definitely not just a promo platform."

There's a certain pleasure to be gained from being the first of your friends to discover a new band

Disco-tech

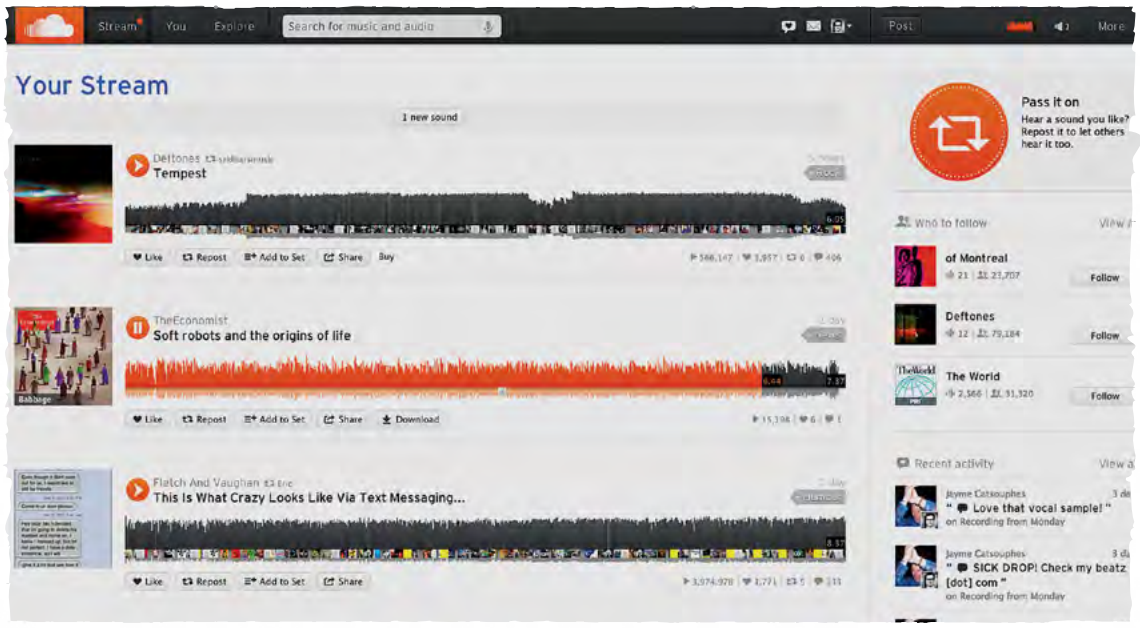
While its lack of a full catalogue means it'll never be a direct competitor to Spotify *et al*, it's the stuff you won't find elsewhere that makes SoundCloud so good for discovery. Lorde found an audience for *The Love Club EP* on SoundCloud six months before Universal released it, while Drake and Kendrick Lamar have been known to debut stuff there, too.

DJ Shadow used SoundCloud to upload the mix that got him kicked off the decks at a club in Miami, and Four Tet put a collection of rarities on there called *0181*. It's the YouTube to Spotify's Netflix; it has democratised music. "We provide the tools for literally anyone to be able to share their creations," says Sylvain. "We're not a record label. We're not here to push one particular artist over another. We want to create massive opportunities for as many artists as possible. It's the users and the community that decide [what's popular]. People follow artists they like, irrespective of how they discovered them."

As with Spotify, it's SoundCloud's community that's likely to lead you to the good stuff, and both platforms are pushing playlists in a big way. "We have millions of curators who aren't artists themselves, but they produce playlists that are liked, reposted and shared across SoundCloud," Sylvain says. Therefore, while the site has an algorithm recommending related artists based on genre classification and sonic analysis of each track, it's the combination of man and machine that gets the best results.

Spotify's user-generated playlists also have a big part to play in getting

SoundCloud is a great platform for discovering new artists, as it provides tools for just about anybody to share their music – it's the YouTube to Spotify's Netflix





a band heard. Aileen Crowley works for a record label in Nashville called DigSin, and one day last year she discovered one of their bands' Spotify streams had doubled overnight thanks to their inclusion on a playlist with 50,000 followers. Sites such as Playlists.net and Topsify.com allow people to share their virtual mixtapes, and some of them have become so influential that labels are pitching songs to the playlisters in the same way they would to a radio station.

Radiohead-hunted

In fact, radio may play a bigger part in the future of streaming than many could ever have predicted. Apple's headhunting of Radio 1 DJ Zane Lowe, plus multiple producers to work alongside him, shows playlists curated by those with industry experience will be a real focus for Cupertino's new Apple Music offering.

It's a tactic also adopted by the UK ticketing app Dice, launched last year by *Monument Valley* maker Ustwo. At first it touted its lack of booking fees as its USP, but now the shift has focused to helping users discover the best gigs in their area, with listings available for London, Manchester, Bristol and Glasgow.

The shows are picked by a four-strong team led by music editor Jen Long, a former DJ who used to front the *BBC Introducing* show on Radio 1. While there are bigger gigs for sale on the app, such as last month's British Summer Time shows in Hyde Park and September's Bestival, the focus is on the stuff you might not be so familiar with.

Which gig? Roll the Dice...

Stuff meets Jen at Ustwo's hipster youth club of an office in East London. "I think that getting people out to gigs is the key to turning them into the ▶







Apps like Dice helps music fans discover the best gigs in their area, whereas Tigmus is trying to change the way gigs are arranged, with fans pledging to attend them

person who doesn't just stream the album three times but actually becomes a proper lifelong fan," she says. "For me, when I see a band live is when I understand them, but when there's not much marketing behind a gig, it's generally all word of mouth. If we can be that voice and tell lots owf people 'You have to check out this band' then I think that's going to be really valuable."

Dice is working to make that process as simple as possible: there's in-app Spotify integration to go alongside the descriptions, related gigs at the bottom of each listing and more to come. "We're working on making the app smarter," she explains. "The idea is to look at what people have bought tickets for and what you spend a lot of time looking at and figure out what the best gigs are for you.

"We're all such huge music fans and we're all so involved in music that we already know most of the bands when they come through. We're using data, but also the human curation that you have through years of working in music; that gut feeling that something's going to be a great gig."

Kickstart me up

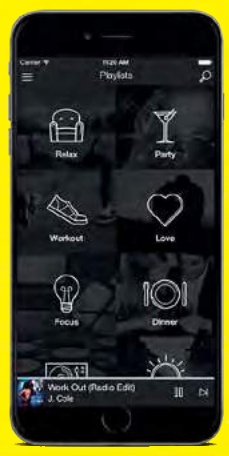
Tigmus arguably takes things a step further into DIY territory. As a kind of cross between Kickstarter and Airbnb, it serves two main purposes: firstly a database for bands to book gigs, and secondly a marketplace for fans to pledge to buy tickets for them. If a gig fails to attract enough fans before a certain date, the show's off and nobody loses money. If all goes well, bands get paid around 30% more, fans pay about 30% less and everybody has a lovely time. At least that's the plan.

Tigmus is the brainchild of Tom Hodgson and Oli Steadman, members of Oxford-based indie-folk band

TIDAL: A HIGH-RES WINNER?

If audiophile-in-chief Neil Young is to be believed, there's a lot of music within the music you're listening to that you've never heard. But will high-res audio ever be more than a niche concern? Jay-Z and his band of Tidal-supporting audio avengers are certainly on Neil's side, although you get the feeling they're more bothered about the cash than the sound quality.

"Just because there's an opportunity to have better-sounding music doesn't mean people will grab it," says Blur's Dave Rowntree, "especially if they're going to have to spend more money. If there's some must-have hardware, that might do it, but just the increase in quality probably isn't enough." High-res audio on the next iPhone, anyone?



"We're using data, but also human curation from years of working in music"

Stornoway, who noticed that while the way we listen to and pay for music has changed beyond recognition in the past 10 years, the way that gigs are arranged hasn't.

Stuff meets Tom in a Brighton pub during a rainy day at this year's Great Escape festival, where he explains: "Live music is still very web 1.0; it's a clunky, opaque world of booking agents, promoters, managers and all these people who are instrumental to great gigs, but it's difficult to break in as a young artist.

"We're trying to make it more transparent. If it's going to become more web 2.0, it needs to be much more plugged into all these streaming habits, and automate some of the processes that are currently based on people having to pick up the phone to get things done."

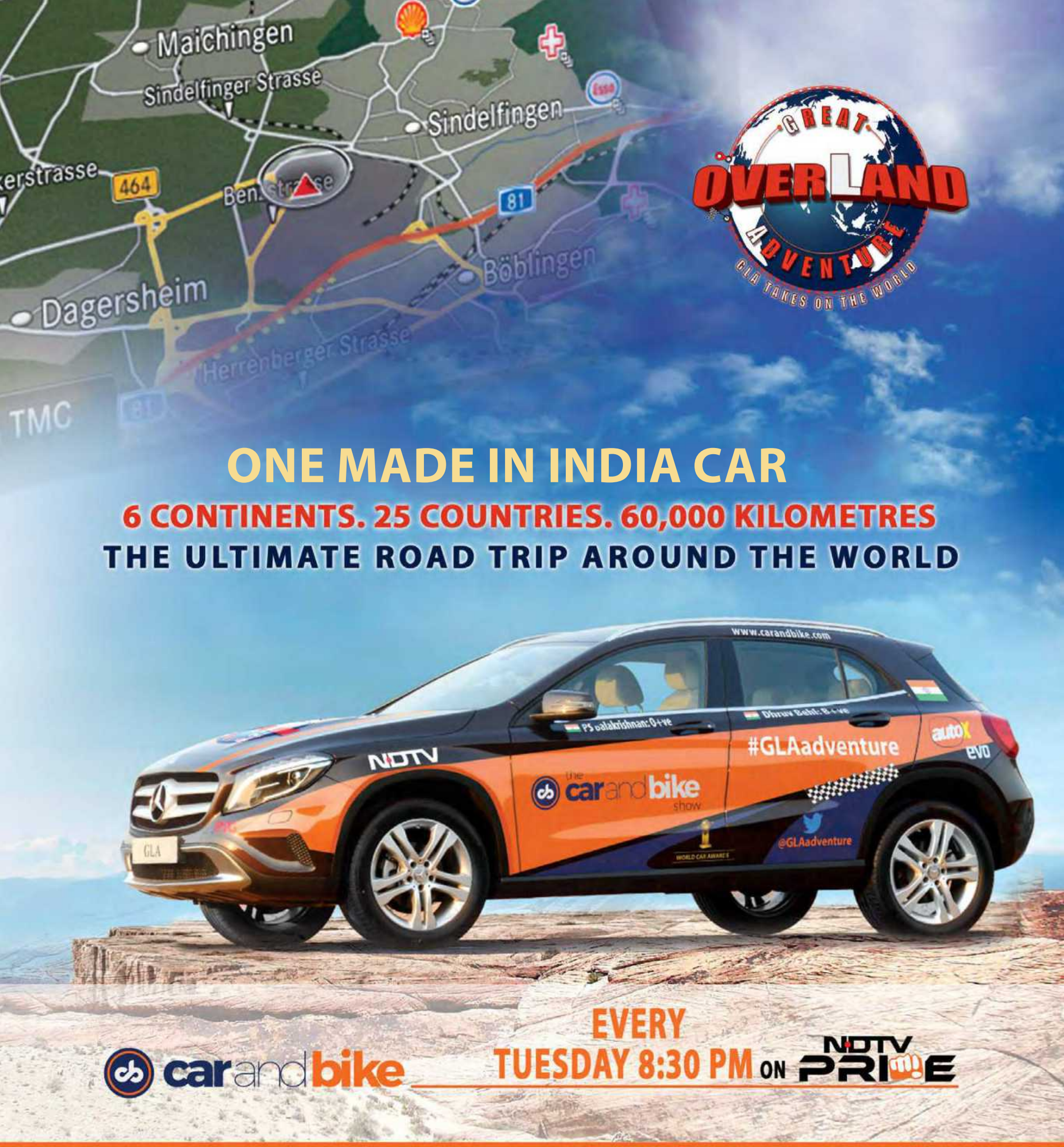
The great gig in the Skynet

Like Jen Long at Dice, Tom reckons the key to turning what plays into what pays is to convince people to go to gigs and make it as easy as possible for them to get there. With around 300 venues signed up and a couple of hundred artists, plus 100 Tigmus-powered gigs under its belt, Tom's optimistic. "The more venues that sign up, the more artists it'll attract, and vice versa," he says. "Once we get some of that traffic coming through, we can do some really cool stuff with the data."

So, can an algorithm really find you a new favourite band? Not without human help, but then that's probably no bad thing. After all, if you take the whole thing to its logical conclusion, we'd have to hand over music-making to the machines as well, and pretty soon we'd end up living on a planet that resembled *Terminator: The Musical*.

Although on second thought, that could be pretty entertaining.

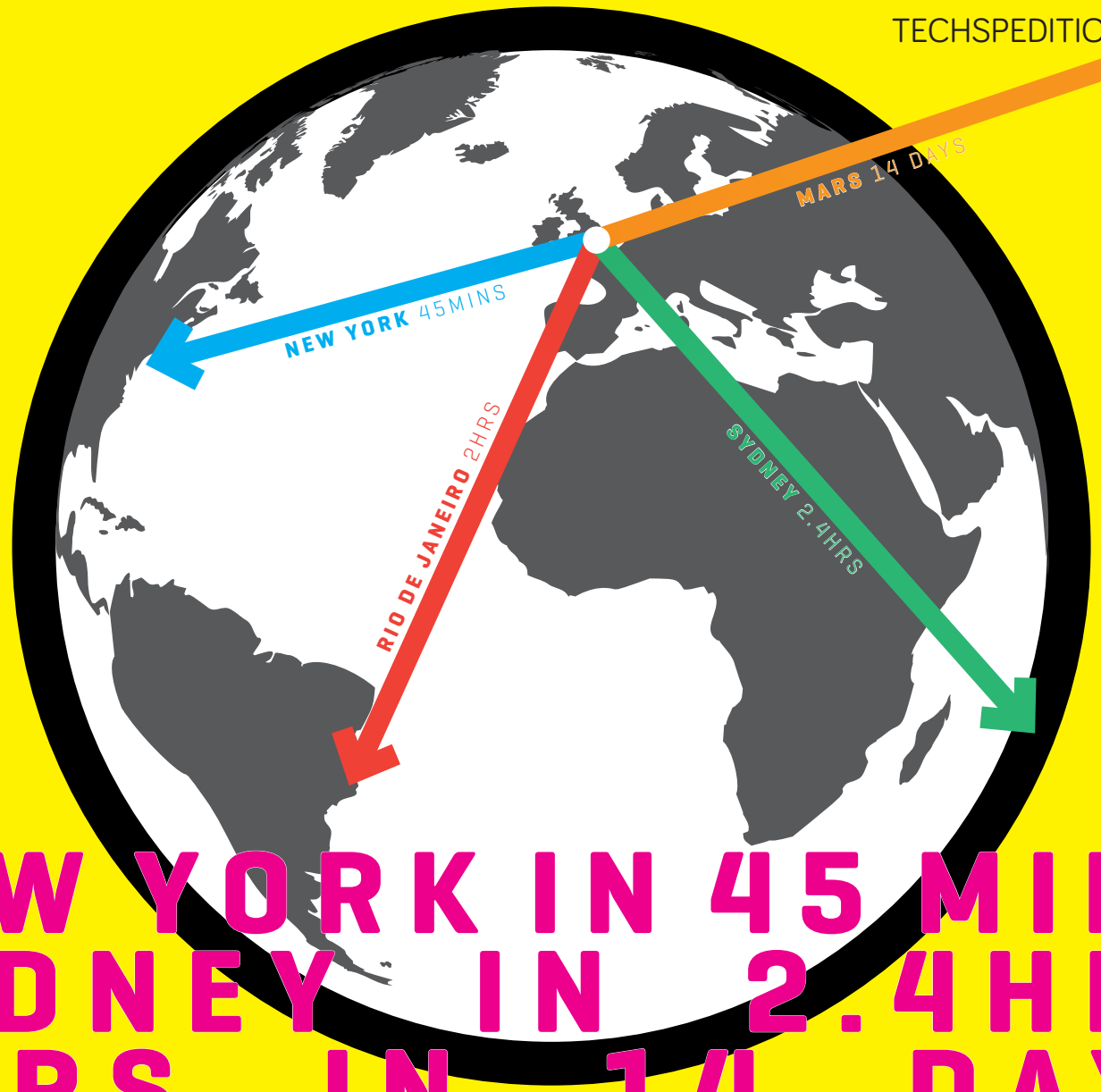




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THE IMPOSSIBLE ENGINE



Does the future of flight come in a can?

A British engineer says he can fly you from London to Sydney in under three hours, using a small amount of clean energy. Is the EmDrive about to change the world, or is it the biggest fraud in science? We asked the man behind it.

In 1927, an 20-year-old RAF cadet named Frank Whittle wrote his graduation thesis on the future of flight, proposing an engine that used its exhaust directly for thrust. He claimed the engine would work better on an aeroplane at high altitude, and made some radical claims about the huge speeds – over 500mph – such an aircraft could achieve.

The RAF and other establishment bodies were indifferent to the young engineer's outlandish claims; they were the stuff of sci-fi, which had itself only just been invented. Undeterred, Whittle formed his own company and worked on the engine, 16 hours a day, for a decade. It wasn't until 1941, over 13 years after the original paper, that the first jet-powered aircraft took three short hops along a runway in Gloucestershire. Today, at any given time there are more than half a million people in the air. Miles above the ground, moving at hundreds of miles per hour, enough people to fill a city eat and sleep, read magazines and watch films, in a craft that was thought to be completely impossible less than a century earlier.

If Roger Shawyer is right, he may be this century's Frank Whittle. Shawyer claims to have invented an engine that uses no propellant, a closed box that floats into the sky without burning fuel. It is, to all intents and purposes, an antigravity machine.

That's if it works. Where the jet engine had a handful of people who refused to listen, the EmDrive has hundreds of internet pundits who say it violates the fundamental laws of physics.

There's more than one way to gyroscopically levitate a cat

Okay, let's science. And because physics examples often use cats, we'll pretend you're swinging one by the tail. Obviously we do not condone the swinging of cats, but let's pretend you're an inhumane monster with an interest in physics and cat cruelty. As

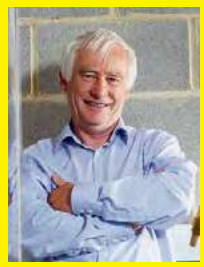
you swing, you speed up through one portion of the circle, like you're swinging a slingshot. The faster part of your morally indefensible cat-swing has more centrifugal force than the rest of the swing, and you can feel it pulling your arm in that direction. You have created thrust, without expelling propellant. You are a GIT: a Gyroscopic Inertial Thruster (although given your treatment of the cat, also the other kind). Google 'pendulum car', and you'll see a toy that moves in the same way.

In the winter of 1974, the celebrated engineer Eric Laithwaite gave a lecture to the Royal Institution on just such a device (minus the cat) – a gyroscope that could propel itself, using the thrust generated by its moving mass. Laithwaite was hugely respected, but his gyroscope idea was about as well received as an incontinent walrus in a jacuzzi; so far, it is the only lecture the Royal Institution has ever declined to publish. But while the scientific establishment scoffed outright at Laithwaite's curious idea, researchers in less visible areas – namely military tech – began to look into exactly *why* it was impossible. One of those researchers was Roger Shawyer.

But if the cat swings at the speed of light...

"I was working in the defence industry," Shawyer recalls, "and we were asked to determine if [Laithwaite's] theories were valid. It was a long and controversial proposal, and it was never going to happen – the laws of mechanics don't allow it." But while Shawyer was able to break Laithwaite's machine on the iron-hard laws of mechanics, the laws of electromagnetism proved more elastic. "An electromagnetic wave is moving at the speed of light. When you're working at these very high, relativistic velocities, then suddenly things that appear not to be possible become possible."

If your own research on general and special relativity goes no further than once having owned a poster of Einstein sticking his tongue out, join the club. It's a big club. In 1919, four years after the publication of the Einstein field equations, the world's foremost expert on relativity admitted that it was probably just he and Einstein who understood the subject. Shawyer concedes: "If you worry too much about what an EM field is, you'll conclude that you don't know. Physicists can describe them mathematically and tell you what they do, but to actually describe them to a non-scientist is almost impossible." Well, that's a big help.



Roger Shawyer

Create an imbalance, and you create motion

Still, here's the EmDrive as we understand it: the engine is a hollow cone with flattened, closed-off ends. Inside the cone, electromagnetic waves are bounced back and forth, from the wide end to the thin end. They're moving at the speed of light, so they can't get any faster, but the tapered shape of the cone means they hit one end with more force (more *group velocity*) than the other. "So inside the cavity itself, you have a momentum imbalance," says Shawyer. "And you have to say to yourself, what happens to this momentum imbalance? It can't do nothing, maths won't allow it to. So, to balance the momentum, the cavity accelerates in the opposite direction."

Instead of stretching, it moves

The problem is, this effect (if it even exists) is tiny. To turn it into horsepower, we need to talk about Q.

To most people, 'Q' is the gadget man in Bond movies or a potentially disastrous Scrabble tile. To engineers, 'Q' is the 'quality factor' that describes how easily a system loses energy. Engineers who build skyscrapers make sure they have a low Q – below 1 – as the system needs to be able to lose energy (like wind or earthquakes) easily, and not resonate itself to bits. A pendulum, on the other hand, has a high Q, because it re-uses energy added to its system by resonating. Cycling the energy, it loses a little at a time. A good pendulum might have a Q of 10,000.

"Now, in an EmDrive cavity, you have an extraordinarily high Q", explains Shawyer. "Typically, for our basic first-generation cavity, you have a Q of, say, 50,000. This means that these EmDrive cavities store huge amounts of energy: the energy stored in it is 50,000 times the amount that you add in one cycle. So, if you take an EmDrive cavity that has a Q factor of 50,000, and you put in one kilowatt of power inside that cavity, you are storing an instantaneous power of five megawatts. That's a small power station. So, you treat these things with respect."

Shawyer says the sheer power of these high-Q cavities is a problem for some scientists. "If you go to CERN, they have microwave cavities similar to EmDrive cavities, but they're superconducting. Their Q factors are not 50,000 but five *billion*. If you put a pulse of power into these cavities, the forces involved are so huge that these very large cylinders, made from thick, solid metal, stretch. The forces inside are the same as EmDrive forces. They're being stretched by the force of the electromagnetic waves bouncing up and down inside them.

"But because they're symmetrical cavities, the forces are equal at either end and so they don't move, they simply stretch. An EmDrive is a non-symmetrical cavity, and the unequal forces it produces provide acceleration. Instead of stretching, it moves."

Spacecraft with EmDrives could be a lot cheaper and a lot faster



"It'll never work," said the internet

Opinion over whether the EmDrive works is divided into three camps: Yes, No and I Honestly Have No Idea (we're in camp three). The No camp's most

REFLECTOR
If a ball rolling in a tray hits one end harder than the other, the tray will move in that direction. Shawyer says he can do this with EM waves.

JARGON BUSTER

EM WAVES
Ripples in electromagnetic fields move about 20 million times faster than ocean waves. So fast, in fact, that they are subject to...

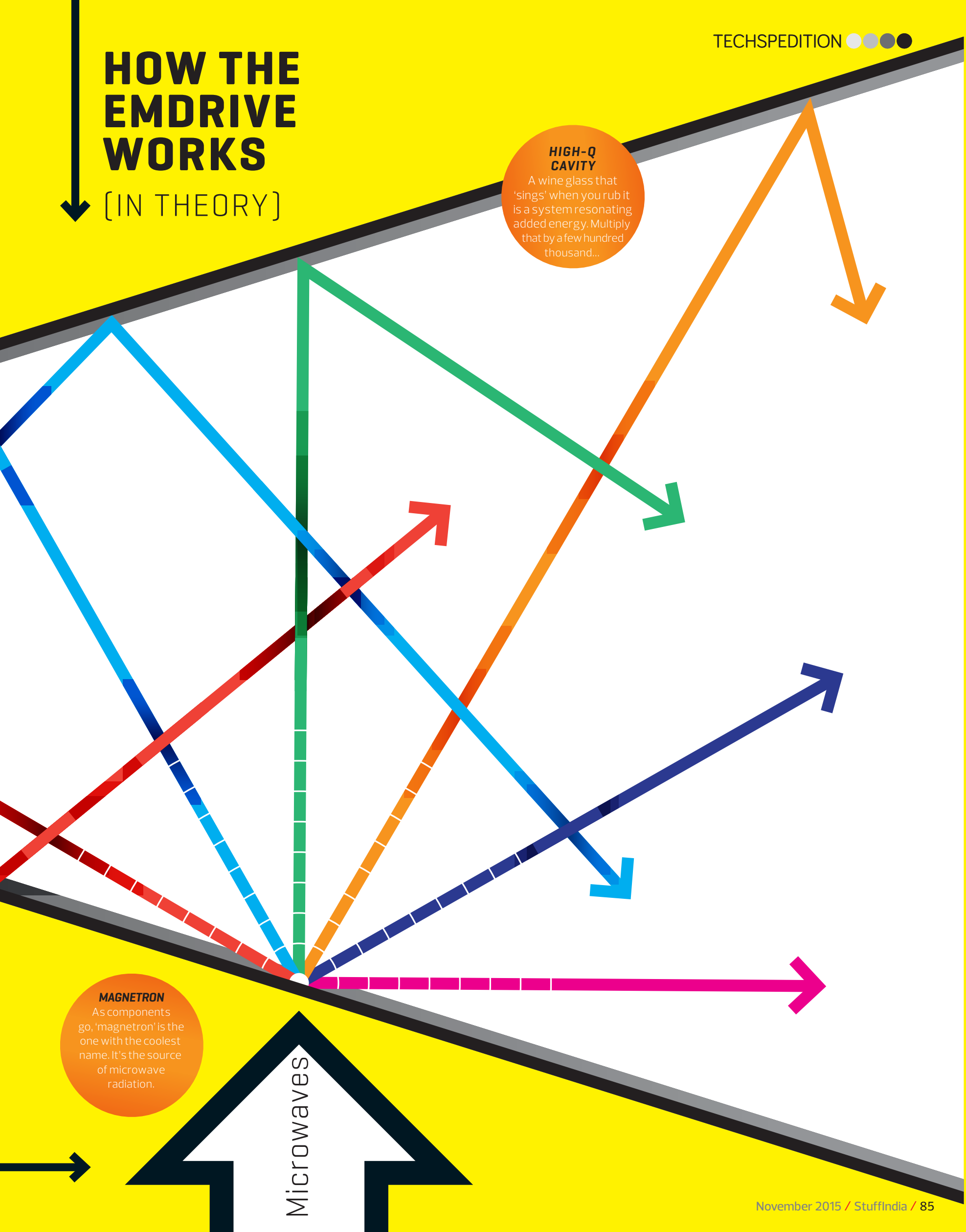
SPECIAL RELATIVITY
...which is tricky to explain in a tiny box. But basically it means that if you're moving at the speed of light, time stands still...

FRAME OF REFERENCE
...which, says Roger Shawyer, makes each end of the EmDrive a distinct object, or 'frame', which is why the drive moves instead of stretching.

MICROWAVE
An electric box for creating tasty melted-cheese sandwiches and unbearably hot soup, by bombarding them with...

HOW THE EMDRIVE WORKS

(IN THEORY)



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consistent claim is that Shawyer's engine violates the law of conservation of energy. That's not simply doing 65 in a 60 zone. That's impossible.

While the majority of those writing articles about the EmDrive are keyboard warriors without physics degrees (a crime of which the author of this article is also guilty), there are plenty of well-qualified detractors, including professors, authors and NASA engineers. They say that, if an EmDrive is a reversible electrical machine that turns power into acceleration – like an electric motor – you should be able to run it backwards and turn acceleration into electricity. With everything on Earth getting acceleration from the planet's gravity, they say this should mean an unplugged EmDrive acts as an effectively endless free power generator. Which, given that the world's energy problems still exist, it obviously doesn't.

"It sure looks like it works," said others

The thing that's really getting the No camp worked up is, people keep building EmDrives and getting results that look a lot like thrust. Shawyer's own tests were backed up by a team from China's Northwestern Polytechnical University in 2008, and in 2011, engineers at NASA's Eagleworks facility – a highly specialised lab built to test things that are So Crazy They Just Might Work – revealed they were testing an engine that operated on the same principle. Earlier this year, they too announced that they'd recorded thrust from their drive, and shortly afterwards a team from the Dresden University of Technology announced that they, too, had built an EmDrive (using a microwave oven) that appeared to work.

What's more, amateur scientists are beginning to experiment in their garages and kitchens – watch out for those megawatts, guys – and they too say their home-made EmDrives are pushing. At the moment the push is fractions of a gramme, but it's a repeatable result.

So, what time does my flying car arrive?

If – and it is an 'if' the size of a morbidly obese whale – the EmDrive works, there is still a lot to be done before your silent, emissions-free plane takes off.

At the top of Shawyer's wishlist is "a high-temperature superconducting material". By making a superconducting EmDrive, Shawyer says he can increase the Q factor from 50,000 to 5bn, as the scientists at CERN did: "The thrust you can get out of it is proportional to the Q of the cavity, so you multiply the thrust by 100,000 times." This takes the power of the engine from a barely feather-raising 300mNs per kilowatt to "about three tonnes per kilowatt". That's your flying car, powered by a fairly decent microwave oven.

"We're currently using a material called YBCO – yttrium barium copper oxide – which is highly superconducting at liquid hydrogen temperatures [-253°C]. That also means that the liquid hydrogen used to cool the cavity can be used to generate the electricity in a fuel cell. So the only fuel you'd put into a personal air vehicle would be liquid hydrogen."

Oh. So... he really does see us in the flying vehicles sci-fi promised?

"Yes. You won't be driving around in traffic jams any more; in 20 years' time you'll be using personal vehicles with vertical take-off and landing. Timescales are subject to politics and commercial interests, but... we will almost certainly be flying *something* within a couple of years."

"This is what I mean," adds Shawyer with the air of someone who has said this to many disbelieving people, many times before, "when I say the world doesn't know what's going to hit it."

"Most of the modern world isn't understood by most of the people living in it"

A true working EmDrive could power a new age of cleaner, faster transport, dramatically altering the way things are shipped and where people work. It could send craft further and faster into space than ever before; most estimates for a trip to Mars are six to nine months (it's a *really* long way), but an EmDrive craft could accelerate for most of the journey, dramatically increasing the achievable speed. You could be on Mars in two weeks. But would any aviation company take a punt on such a device?

"Put it like this," says Shawyer. "In 2009, under government instructions from the UK and under a government export licence called a TAA, all the design info for a flight EmDrive was transferred to Boeing. I'm allowed to say that, it's in the public domain; but five years ago, Boeing had a flight thruster design. At around the same time, China announced that they had an EmDrive with enough thrust to keep the International Space Station aloft. This is happening – it's not something that might possibly happen in the future, it is happening now."

Believe him or not, it's fun to imagine he's right

INCREDIBLE UTILITY OUTSIDER DEVICES

In patent law, *Incredible Utility* describes something that can't be patented because it's too good to be true. In other words, in order to get a patent for something, the guy in the patent office has to believe that its useful function actually exists. Inventions rejected (and in all probability, rightly so) on the grounds of Incredible Utility include a perpetual motion machine, a cold fusion process and a method for changing the way foods taste using a magnetic field. If that last one could lead to a Baconana, we'll need more scientists working on it.



STARLITE

A synthetic material invented by amateur chemist Maurice Ward appears to be capable of withstanding more heat than any other known material – one test involved a laser beam that could vaporise tungsten. Ward died in 2011, though, and it looks as if he may have taken the secret of Starlite with him.



THE E-CAT

Italian inventor Andrea Rossi claims his 'Energy Catalyser' is a low-energy nuclear reactor that turns nickel into copper, producing heat as it does. As with all 'cold fusion' claims, the promise of abundant clean energy sounds amazing but the reality doesn't hold up to scientific investigation.



THE WEB OF POWER

Imagine a system of balloons, similar to Google's Project Loon, which distributed not just wireless internet but wireless electricity across the planet. This was the vision of 19th century sparkmaster Nikola Tesla, who claimed to be able to power hundreds of lightbulbs from miles away.

Stuff India

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Media hoard

Here are some nice new things to tempt you into the warm and great indoors – including Mexican drug lords, a populated Moon and a massive Indominus Rex

WATCH

Sicario _cinema

After excelling in the art of knocking down American doors, no-nonsense FBI agent Kate Macer (Emily Blunt) is hand-picked for a special mission in Mexico: chop the head off a drug cartel that's leaving bodies stuffed into the walls of suburban houses across the border in the US.

Led by the shifty pairing of Matt (Josh Brolin) and Alejandro (Benicio Del Toro), a committed subscriber to the idea that actions speak louder than words, Kate finds herself questioning the whole endeavour after bullets start flying in a traffic jam on the way home from a dubious bust.

Unable to get a straight answer about, well, anything – particularly Alejandro's mission and motives – she soon becomes something of a lone wolf, save for help from her partner, the excellent Daniel Kaluuya of *Black Mirror* fame.

Thanks to the CallofDutification of Hollywood blockbusters, we frequently see *Sicario* (meaning hitman) through the eyes of a drone or a pair of thermal imaging goggles, making the vast expanses of wilderness look positively extra-terrestrial – but the film's far from inhuman.

Comparisons will be made with *Zero Dark Thirty* as a taut, thrilling blockbuster: one that mixes the streamlined storytelling of a TV episode with the full-on cinematic tension and blood-pumping set pieces of Michael Mann at his best.

STUFF SAYS ★★★★☆



Jurassic World _Blu-ray, DVD, VOD

If you're a fan of the original trilogy, you won't be disappointed – world-class CGI means that our favourite dinosaurs are back and better than ever. Chris Pratt is a prehistoric Ace Ventura, leading from the front against the rogue attraction: the Indominus Rex. But Bryce Dallas Howard outrunning a T-Rex, in heels? Seriously?

STUFF SAYS ★★★★☆



Mad Max: Fury Road _Blu-ray, DVD, VOD

You could fit the entire plot on the back of a microSD card – Tom Hardy basically grunts for two hours – but that doesn't matter when the dystopian desert world Max and his entourage barrel through has been so flawlessly realised. *Fury Road* is a journey you can just strap in for and wait for it to blow your head off.

STUFF SAYS ★★★★☆

LISTEN



Every Open Eye _Chvrches

You could have seen this coming: that after the surprising chart impact of the first album, Chvrches would go full-on pop.

There's nothing wrong with pop, but what made *The Bones Of What You Believe* so enjoyable was that the poppy hooks combined with a certain fatalism and bite. That bite isn't as sharp here.

Not that *Every Open Eye* is bad: opener *Never Ending Circles* kicks things off like an explosion in a confetti shop and *Clearest Blue*'s raucous crescendo will be a crowd-thriller at live shows. However, as the album progresses you keep waiting for something with more depth.

There's little doubt that *Every Open Eye* will see commercial success; but I wish it didn't feel as if that was the biggest priority.

STUFF SAYS ★★★☆☆



Grey Tickles, Black Pressure _John Grant

John Grant sure knows how to write a tune. There are some harsher metallic arrangements here, but he doesn't compromise on catchiness. There's nothing as loveable as *GMF* (though the title track comes close), but anyone who enjoys meticulous orchestration, abrasive wit and a ladle of filth will like this.

STUFF SAYS ★★★★☆



Dream Soda _Demob Happy

The Brighton four-piece borrow a little too liberally from Josh Homme's wheelie bin of unused riffs, particularly on *Junk DNA* and *Man You're Wrong*, but there are far worse places to look for inspiration (they find more on *Summer Cash In* and the title track). If Royal Blood can do it, there's no reason why Demob Happy can't.

STUFF SAYS ★★★☆☆

READ



Luna: New Moon _Ian McDonald

If a good chunk of Ian McDonald's success thus far has been taking sci-fi to unexpected places – Brazil, India, Turkey – then this one has its work cut out. We're more likely to have experienced some form of narrative about the Moon already.

"The Moon knows a thousand ways to kill you" is repeated throughout, but more of a threat than vacuum are the warring families vying to dominate its mineral wealth. As ever, McDonald spares no details about the grubby, violent and sexy ways that people gain from each other.

But, for all its complex characters, multicultural influences and near-future tech, *Luna: New Moon* left me slightly cold. There's a second volume on the way; perhaps it will be a little less businesslike.

STUFF SAYS ★★★☆☆



The Making Of *2001: A Space Odyssey* _Piers Bronzy

Made to look like the mysterious monolith seen in Kubrick's sci-fi classic, this book is big on pictures – which is handy as it can be a little unwieldy to read, particularly the pages that fold out to reveal on-set snaps or pre-production sketches. The insight here is all-encompassing.

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★



The Lego Architect _Tom Alphin

Fancy building the Royal Albert Hall? This book will show you how, with instructions for different architectural styles all using the medium of those famous plastic bricks. Its academic prose may feel off-putting, but thanks to the enlightening photos it will make an awesome gift for creative sorts.

STUFF SAYS ★★★★☆

TECH IS DEAD
LONG LIVE TECH

From the people who launched the world's best-selling gadget magazine almost a decade ago, now comes another revolution. A tech website that cuts the clutter and brings you just what you need. News. Reviews. Top 10s. Features.

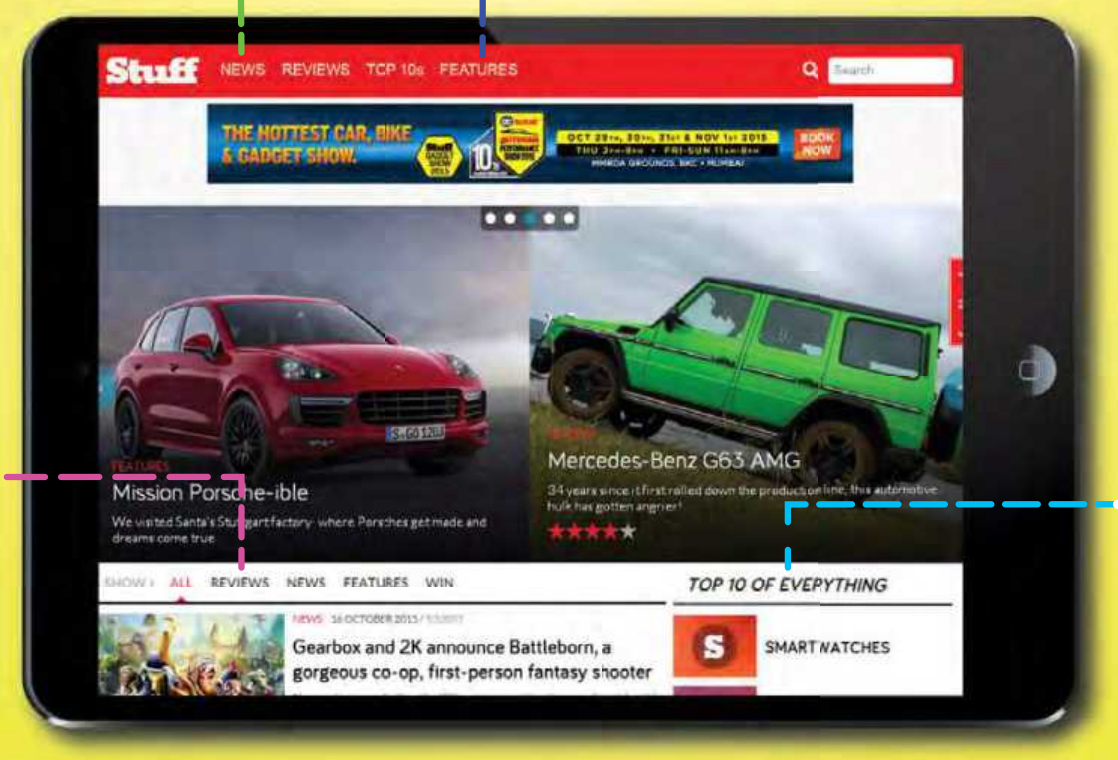
www.stuff.tv/in introduces India to a truly delicious gadget, game, app and tech experience and helps Indian tech fans get their daily dose of cool. Oh, and it knuckle-raps everyone who says tech on the net is dead. Here's how...

1

In-depth, no-nonsense breaking **news** for people who understand what technology is. Also for those who don't.

2

Everything you need to know, about everything you need to know. Drool-worthy **features** about more than just gadgets!



3

What worked. What didn't. What should've. **Reviews** crisper than fried chicken.

4

10 Phones. 10 Tablets. 10 Games. 10 Wearables. **Top 10 Everything.**

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Feeling trippy? Use your geek skills to line up a bargain holiday

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Sometimes you need something more substantial than LOLcats

p104
5-MINUTE HACKS: IF NOTHING ELSE, AT LEAST
Open bottles with paper and much more...

BETA YOURSELF



TRAVELLING

That holiday isn't going to book itself. But how to bag a cheap ticket to a sun-kissed deckchair? Clint Johnston of smart travel site TripHackr is your tour guide...

THE BASICS

■ **Fly on weekdays.** Try to be as flexible as possible with your flight dates. Flying from Saturday to Saturday will be the most expensive, while departing on a Tuesday and returning on a Wednesday is typically cheapest for week-long trips.

■ **Go multi-city.** For European adventures, it often works out cheaper to fly into one city and return from another. For example, flying into Brussels and getting a train to Amsterdam then returning from there will give you bonus Pilsner pounds, plus a more interesting trip.



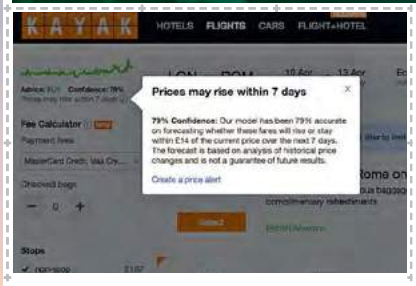
■ **Play holiday roulette.** Fancy putting your travels on 'shuffle mode' while getting bargain flights at the same time? Type 'everywhere' into the destination search box of skyscanner.net and it'll show you a list of the best last-minute flights to virtually every country. Now close your eyes and point your finger. There you go. Now it's time to pack.

■ **Check one-way flights.** As with train fares, booking two one-way flights can give you cheaper tickets and alternative options. To find these 'hacker fares', check the 'one way' boxes in comparison sites like skyscanner.co.in to see how they compare with the return ticket.

■ **Get an upgrade.** There's no exact science to getting a free invite to the other side of that exclusive little curtain. But other than having a friend at the check-in desk, surveys have shown the best way to boost your chances is to have joined the airline's (usually free) loyalty card scheme. Worth putting up with a few emails for?







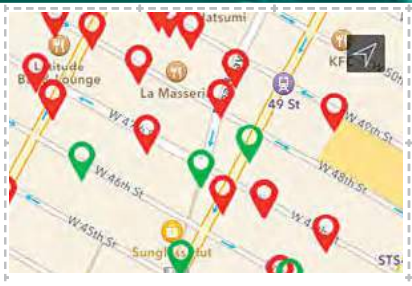
FLIGHT HACKS

■ **Check the trends.** These sites use algorithms based on users' searches to predict whether prices for your journey are likely to go up or down.

■ **Set up fare alerts.** If you don't want to book today, sign up for the fare alerts offered by skyscanner.

■ **Don't book too early.** Booking late can be expensive, but booking months in advance can cost you too. There is no magic formula, but for international trips, aim to book between six and eight weeks before departure.









HOTEL TRICKS

■ **Automate it.** Book your hotel via tingo.com. If the price of the room drops, it will refund you the difference.

■ **Haggle with hosts.** Don't insult Airbnb owners with low-ball offers, but asking for an extended-stay discount of 10-15% is reasonable.

■ **Check the Wi-Fi.** Use Speedspot (speedspot.org) to check if a hotel's broadband is any good, or use a Satechi Smart Travel Router (₹6499, elitify.com) to broadcast fast, secure Wi-Fi from an ethernet connection.

PACKING LIST

■ **Go minimal.** Combine a high-quality carry-on bag like Minaal (US$300, minaal.com) with some water-resistant packing cubes from Eagle Creek (from ₹1300, amazon.in) and you'll be able to go on most trips without needing a pesky check-in case.

■ **Have two photo backups.** Ideally one should be physical, such as a LaCie Rugged Flash Drive (from ₹9800, ebay.in), with the other a cloud service like Dropbox. Rotate several memory cards, and keep them in a Pelican card case (₹2502, amazon.in.

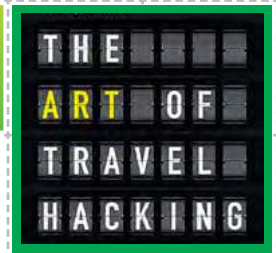
BEST TRAVEL APPS

Airhelp (₹free / Android, iOS)
Seething over a delayed, overbooked or cancelled flight? This app knows your rights and you can apply for compensation via a five-step process.

Here Maps (₹free / iOS, Android, Windows Phone)
While Google Maps' offline options are still quite limited, Nokia's revamped app lets you download entire countries and directions for use without a pricey data connection.

Rocketmiles (₹free / iOS)
This app lets you earn air miles by staying at affiliated hotels.

LEVEL UP WITH...



THE BOOK
THE ART OF TRAVEL HACKING
US$20 / triphackr.com
Casual holiday-goers will find more than enough travel tips in the 'resources' section of the Triphackr site, but serial travellers who are looking to gain a black belt in air miles can download this e-book from the site. Though very US-centric, it describes the kind of obsession that helped the author get a $1200 plane ticket to Brazil for just $58.

THE WEBSITE
ROMEZRIO
romezrio.com
Like a Citymapper for globetrotters, this site tells you how to get from point A to a point B anywhere on the planet. Type in your destination and it'll crunch all your options for trains, planes, ferries, buses, rental cars and submarines (OK, maybe not that last one), before presenting them to you with journey times on a handy map.



THE SERVICE
THE TRAVEL HACKING CARTEL
From US$15 per month / travelhacking.org
It might sound shady, but this subscription service has got air-mile-earning down to such a fine art that it guarantees one free plane ticket every three months. Of course, only very frequent fliers need apply, but there is a one-dollar 14-day trial for those who'd like to see if it's worth the time it saves on perusing travel forums like FlyerTalk.

PLAYLIST

WEBCOMICS

Print them out, do a spot of home bookbinding and they're just like real comics you didn't have to go to the shops for! Or you could read them online...





Never Mind The Bullets

This Wild West production from Microsoft delivers a kinetic experience – cigarette smoke curls lazily into the air, assailants sneak up behind characters and bullet casings tinkle onto the ground. Best of all, the whole thing can be customised.
nevermindthebullets.com



Toothpaste For Dinner

Drew Fairweather started *Toothpaste For Dinner* in 2002. Its simplistic, squiggly line drawings pack a hefty wallop of surrealism, social commentary and schadenfreude, which made one critic at *Slate* write: "In terms of clickability, this is Rembrandt."
toothpastefordinner.com



Saturday Morning Breakfast Cereal

There are no storylines in Zach Weinersmith 's webcomic, no characters and not even a set format. But since its launch in 2002, it's won multiple awards and gathered a huge fanbase who love his gags inspired by academia, religion and romance.
smbc-comics.com



Diesel Sweeties

One of the longest-running entries on this list is 15-year-old *Diesel Sweeties*, which is about robots and humans who fall in love. You'll need to follow it for a while to get some of the irony-laden subtleties, but you'll soon learn that everyone has their emotional handicaps. Especially the robots.
dieselsweeties.com



Poorly Drawn Lines

Reza Farazmand writes *Poorly Drawn Lines*, which features adorable animals, cute robots and more surprise plot twists than an M Night Shyamalan movie. The humour is a mix of observational and surrealist, but what makes it work is the contrast with the gentle, clean artwork.
poorlydrawnlines.com



XKCD

Randall Monroe's tales of 'romance, sarcasm and math' are a tri-weekly delight, ranging from pop-culture puns to epic adventures that unfurl over four months. The art is basic and you'll need to know graphs to get half the jokes, but no other comic is a bigger part of the fabric of the web.
XKCD.com

The Wormworld Saga

Despite being more of a graphic novel than a traditional comic, this saga is well-suited to the web thanks to its infinite canvas with just a few floating frames. Those magnificent, sumptuous visuals packed with detail – you'll lose yourself in them for hours.
wormworldsaga.com





Perry Bible Fellowship

Nicholas Gurewitch's comic, originally written for the newspaper at Syracuse University, gets its laughs from the juxtaposition of childlike imagery and colours with themes of sex, religion and violence, so it's not one to show the kids. But its black humour is infectious.

pbfcomicscom



Dinosaur Comics

Ryan North creates what's known as a constrained comic – each one has exactly the same characters (a trio of dinosaurs) in exactly the same positions. Only the words change – and yet it still manages to be hilarious, poignant and clever in equal measures.

qwantz.com/index.php



The Oatmeal

Matthew Inman's comics are eclectic, covering everything from zombies to grammar, and he's built up a legion of fans who raised enough for the purchase and restoration of the pioneering scientist Nikola Tesla's laboratory. Inman's latest project? A card game called *Exploding Kittens*.

theoatmeal.com



Paranatural

This one is a little more involved than many webcomics. It's been running since 2011 and tells the story of a teenager who moves into a town infested by ghosts that only he can see. The animé-styled artwork is rich in colour and detail. Be sure to start at the beginning.

paranatural.net

STRIP SEARCH



OH NO ROBOT

Ever catch yourself trying to find a specific strip but can't remember the title? Oh No Robot is a search engine that transcribes the contents of over 2000 comics so you can track down the one you want.

ohnorobot.com



COMIC ROCKET

Catching up on webcomic backstories is hard. Enter Comic Rocket, a crowdsourced indexing tool that tracks where you are and keeps your place. You can also find new favourites with the recommendations tool.

comic-rocket.com



COMIC CHAMELEON

This free iOS app lets you scroll through more than 125 of the best comics on the web, with panel-by-panel navigation and payments to the artists in question. An Android version is due very soon.

comicchameleon.com

S1

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5-MINUTE HACKS

IF NOTHING ELSE, AT LEAST...



1 DO A WILLPOWER WORKOUT

Sometimes willpower, that annoying thing standing in between you and those cookies, isn't strong enough. Enter this infuriatingly smart treats jar:

Pick up a kSafe (US$90, thekitchensafe.com). This translucent jar connects with the kSafe app (Android, iOS) to lock away its sugary contents until you've reached your goal.

Set your goal. You can set a standard time-lock to make sure the jar only opens at certain times of the day or week, or set a 'location goal' that will see it unlock if you begrudgingly make it to the gym.

Crank up the difficulty level. If you own a Fitbit, you can set it to only open when you've burned a certain number of calories or walked a set number of steps. Just two more laps until cake...



2 MAKE A PAPER BOTTLE OPENER

Your punchbowl, baby back ribs and strained neighbourly relations are all in place for the summer barbecue, but you could really do with a beer and you've lost your trusty bottle opener. Time for an emergency party trick:

Find a piece of paper. Fold it in half vertically as many times as possible, until you only have a very thin rod of paper.

Fold this remaining paper in half lengthways to create a V-shape, making sure the edge is as sharp as possible.

Push this V edge into the underside of the bottle cap and apply a little pressure. Cue a round of applause for the magic of tensile strength. Have we confused you? Here's YouTube to the rescue: bit.ly/paperbottle



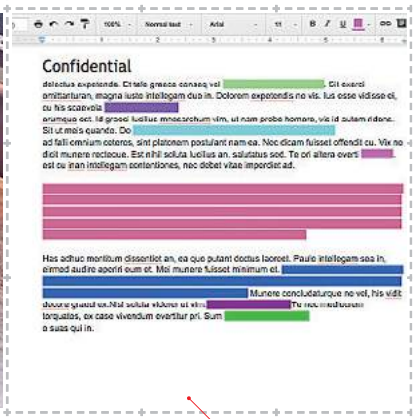
3 PIMP YOUR DOCS

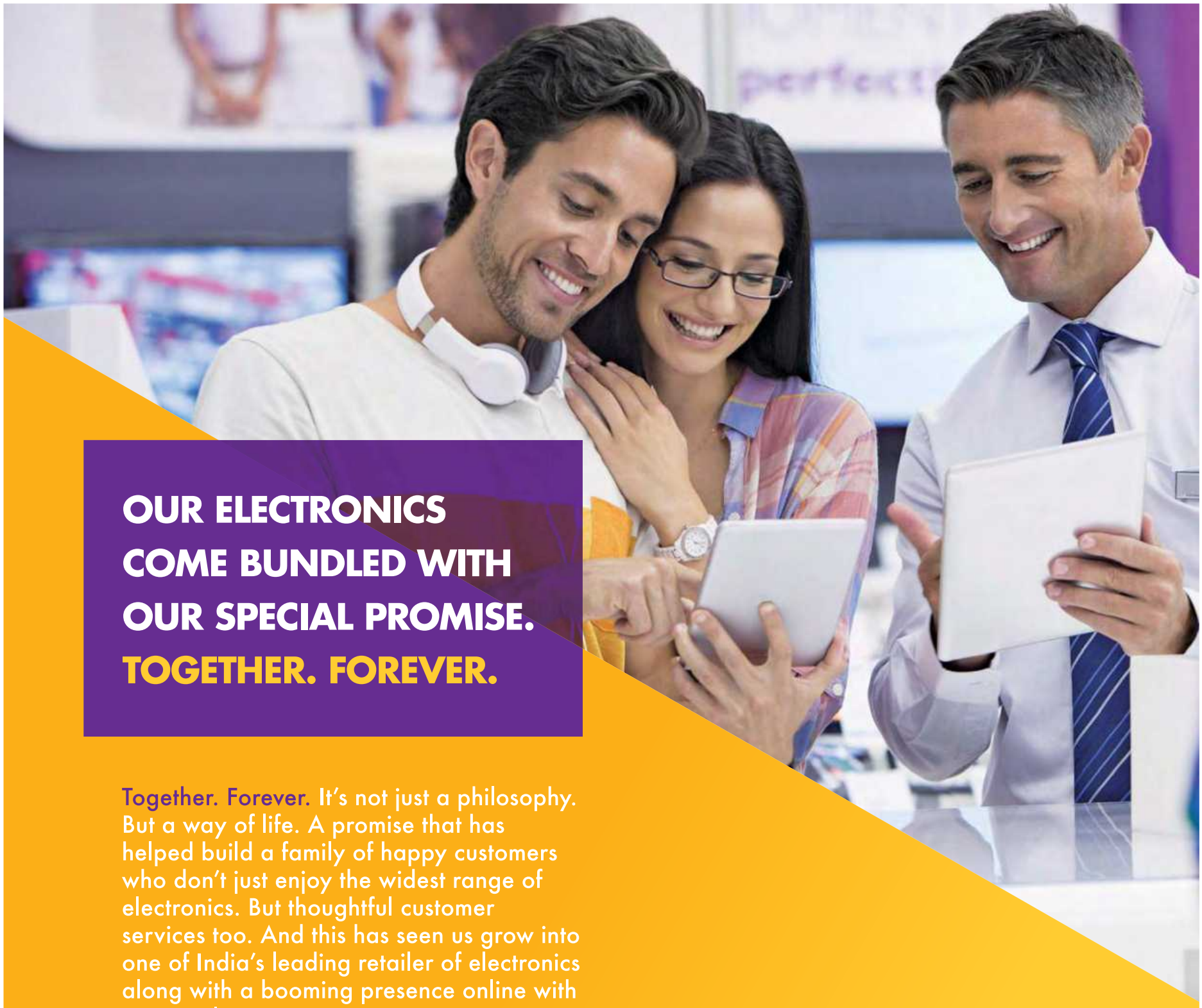
Though our simple brains like Google Docs' clean look, there is time-saving gold buried within its add-on menu. Just click 'get add-ons' and search for these:

Doc Secrets. If there are secrets within a shared doc (your password, an address, a suspense spoiler) that you need to password-protect, use this add-on to encrypt them in Google Chrome.

Screenplay Formatter. Fancy yourself as the natural successor to Wes Anderson? This add-on will format your whimsical tales into accepted screenplay standards.

Social Drop. If you like publishing your Google Docs on Twitter, this sidebar lets you send them directly to the Twittersphere and track any retweets. Not in a desperate way. Just every five seconds or so.





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Home cinema	107
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Home Computers & Consoles	109
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Laptops	111
Games	112
Wearables & Smarthome	113

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1 HOT BUY UPDATE



Samsung Galaxy S6

This is a new era for Samsung, with a smart upgrade that fixes not just things that were amiss in the Galaxy S5, but things that have plagued them for years. No plastic here: its front and back are super-tough Gorilla Glass 4, its sides aluminium. In terms of ergonomics and speaker quality, HTC still wins, but only just. And in the more important areas of camera performance, screen tech and raw power, the Galaxy S6 tramples its rivals. We just wish it had a microSD slot.

STUFF SAYS
Samsung has proven its critics wrong – the Galaxy S6 is the new benchmark for flagship phones

from ₹36,900 ★★★★★

2 NEW		**Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge+** The Edge+ is a larger version of the curvy S6 Edge that wowed us earlier this year; its extra chunk of screen and camera are terrific, while it's also technologically superior to almost everything out there. For a money-no-object phone, it's an absolute corker.	₹57,900 ★★★★★	BEST FOR CUTTING-EDGE GADGETEERS
3 UPDATE		**LG G4** The leather-clad LG G4 is a treat for those who want something that looks and feels a bit different. Its camera is incredibly powerful, giving you almost as much control as a DSLR, and the large screen is brilliant... but the battery life holds it back from the top.	₹46,500 ★★★★★	
4		**OnePlus 2** The OnePlus 2 massively undercuts the big-name competition while offering a phone experience pretty similar to them. Good software, good performance and a great battery life make this one of the easiest top-tier phones. OnePlus has done it again.	from ₹24,999 ★★★★★	BEST FOR VALUE FOR MONEY
5		**HTC One M9+** Having been beaten by the S6, the M9+ is the step forward that perhaps the M9 should have been. With a bigger, more pixel-packed screen and a fingerprint scanner it's welcome at the next-gen superphone party, and it's dressed just as smartly as before.	₹52,990 ★★★★★	
6		**Motorola Moto Turbo** It's the most complete package out there. It's smart, fast, and it's a handset crafted so beautifully, you'll find yourself picking it up often for no reason whatsoever sometimes. It's priced rather competitively too, given those impressive specs.	₹41,999 ★★★★★	BEST FOR BANG FOR THE BUCK
7 UPDATE		**Motorola Moto X** Smart, fast and beautifully crafted: Motorola's software works together seamlessly to make your life that bit easier and the brilliant Bamboo option sets it apart from any other top-spec smartphone out there. This feels like a phone that's built for everyone.	from ₹18,499 ★★★★★	BEST FOR BUILD AND POWER
8		**Apple iPhone 6** With its slim, deeply attractive build and software overhaul, the iPhone 6 is the freshest-feeling iPhone in years. Its larger screen is big enough to be a useful improvement, with gorgeous colours, and this is Apple's best-ever battery.	from ₹53,500 ★★★★★	
9		**Samsung Galaxy Note 4** Samsung was first at the phablet game, and with the Note 4 it's still the best. The ace camera, Multi Window feature and pressure-sensitive S Pen make proper use of the extra screen real estate. Plus, it has the longest battery life of any 2K phone we've tested.	₹41,900 ★★★★★	
10		**Motorola Moto G (3rd Gen)** Motorola continues its onslaught on budget smartphones with this excellent third iteration. With 4G and microSD support adding to its list of useful credentials, this looks to be a worthy successor to previous Moto Gs. Once again, brilliant VFM.	from ₹11,999 ★★★★★	BEST FOR RECESSION - BUSTI NG



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HOT BUY

1 Apple iPad Air 2



The iPad Air didn't really need to be thinner, but that doesn't mean 6.1mm isn't mighty impressive. This combines with reassuring weight and impeccable build quality to make this the most desirable tab on the planet. While the display is the same Retina resolution as before, clever screen tech brings the pixels closer to the surface, and the whole experience is even faster than before thanks to the new A8X chip. Basically it's the best tablet in the world made even better.

STUFF SAYS
Thinner, lighter and mightier: Apple's iron-fisted reign at the top of the tablet charts continues unabated
from ₹35,900 ★★★★★

2		**Apple iPad Mini 2 With Retina Display** The iPad Mini 3 is out now but all it adds is Touch ID. The good news is that the Mini 2 is now down to ₹21,900, which is frankly bargain-tastic. That's why the 'old' model makes it to our Top 10 – if you're after a mini-tablet of quality, your choice has just got easier.	from ₹21,900 ★★★★★	
3		**Samsung Galaxy Tab S 10.5** Samsung has blessed the Galaxy Tab with one of the best tablet screens we've ever laid eyes on, plus an impressive camera and some incredible stamina – but there are performance niggles and Apple's tablet app selection is still far superior.	₹38,900 ★★★★★	BEST FOR MAGAZINES AND MOVIES
UPDATE 4		**Microsoft Surface Pro 3** At last, Microsoft has delivered on the promise of the tablet-cum-laptop hybrid. It proves there's space in the world for a design that's more productive than an iPad or Galaxy Note, but easier to hump around than a traditional laptop.	from ₹65,300* ★★★★★	BEST FOR USING ANYWHERE
UPDATE 5		**Asus Transformer Book T100** This 10.1in tab-and-dock combo has enough grunt to run full Win 8.1 thanks to Intel's new Baytrail CPU. The 1366x768 screen is a good'un, with crisp text, great contrast and colours that pop, while dual-band Wi-Fi and a day-long battery are also welcome.	from ₹26,750 ★★★★★	BEST FOR WINDOWS LOYALISTS
6		**Google Nexus 9** The design isn't as pristine, but this is a real Android contender to rival the iPads. You get the new Android 5.0 Lollipop software, bags of power and a super-sharp display. With 12 hours of video play and two front-facing speakers, it'll be a great film buddy.	from ₹28,900 ★★★★★	
7		**Samsung Galaxy Tab S 8.4** Samsung's superb screen, design, performance and a wider selection of optimised apps mean that against many other Android tabs it's still a winner. However, the new low price for the iPad Mini 2 makes the Galaxy Tab S 8.4 look rather pricey.	₹27,900 ★★★★☆	
NEW 8		**Sony Xperia Z3 Tablet Compact** A slim, light and reliable couch or commute companion, with a screen that looks brilliant despite being 'only' Full HD. The waterproofing may sway people away from choosing an iPad Mini and every gamer's eyes will light up at the mention of PS4 Remote Play.	₹26,499 ★★★★☆	
NEW 9		**Microsoft Surface 3** Microsoft finally nailed the hybrid formula with the Surface Pro 3, and now it's translated it to this: a smart, ultra-portable design with the benefits of full Windows 8.1. It's easily the best affordable Surface yet. Just make sure you buy the keyboard.	from ₹44,999 ★★★★☆	
10		**Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1 (2014)** The new 10.1 is fit to bursting with clever tricks, comes with the note-tastic S Pen and has a stunning 2560x1600 screen. But while we can forgive its tacky looks, minor performance glitches deny it that fifth star; we hope firmware updates will fix them.	₹24,990 ★★★★☆	



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HOT BUY

1 Bose SoundTouch 20



All this time, if you wanted a true multi-room system, you had no choice but to go the Sonos way. It took long enough, but we finally have an option, and one that you can buy at your friendly neighbourhood mall with zero effort. The Bose SoundTouch system wirelessly connects with your computer or NAS device and streams directly using your home's Wi-Fi network. Multiple SoundTouch devices mean you can control what you want playing in which room. We love it.

STUFF SAYS
Infinite music in every room without the need for custom installers? Sign us up now, please

₹33,638 ★★★★★

2		**Naim Mu-so** Over ₹1 lac for a wireless speaker?! Well yes, but what a wireless speaker it is. Naim has ploughed all of its high-end hi-fi experience into delivering a beautifully made, great-sounding device with AirPlay, streaming and aptX Bluetooth all on-board.	₹1,39,875 ★★★★★	**BEST FOR** ONE-BOX WI-FI HI-FI
3		**Bowers & Wilkins T7** The T7 is B&W's first attempt at a portable Bluetooth speaker, and its good looks and real hi-fi sound combine to make it a real winner. It's solid and easy to use, and has an attractive honeycomb structure that helps reduce cabinet vibrations.	₹29,900 ★★★★★	
4		**Cambridge Audio Go** There are loads of very cheap Bluetooth speakers out there, but we reckon it's worth spending that little bit more to get something that's really good – and that's the Go. It sounds awesome, it's really nicely built and its battery lasts a massive 18 hours.	₹12,500 ★★★★★	**BEST FOR** PICNIC PARTIES
5		**Bluesound Multiroom System** Fancy a bit of Sonos-style multiroom but with better-than-CD-quality sound thrown in? You want a Bluesound. There are all-in-one speakers, adapters for your existing hi-fi, and a Vault that rips and stores all your CDs. All can handle high-resolution audio.	from ₹45,000 ★★★★★	
6		**Bang and Olufsen A9** It's big, it's round and it can look like anything you want it to if you put a front cover on it (we personally like the moon look). It also has a sound that's surprisingly good for a speaker of this shape. So essentially, this art has nice music.	₹2,49,990 ★★★★★	**BEST FOR** DECORATING YOUR LIVING ROOM
7		**Libratone Zipp** A fuzzy, cylindrical, colourful AirPlay dock that will deliver detailed, punchy 360° sound anywhere at all, thanks to a built-in battery that gives it four hours of outdoor life. Direct Wi-Fi skills free you from cables, routers and everything but the boogie.	₹29,990 ★★★★★	**BEST FOR** AL FRESCO PARTIES
8		**Bowers & Wilkins Z2** The baby of B&W's AirPlay range is a little belter, and it adds a proper Lightning dock to Apple's wireless tech. It'll easily fill a small to medium-sized room with chunky bass, punchy beats and lovely, clear vocals. You'll buy it for the look, but love it for the sound.	₹31,500 ★★★★★	
9		**Cambridge Audio Minx Xi** It might not look all that fancy, but the Minx Xi is like that micro system you had at uni, only it gobbles internet music rather than Rage Against The Machine CDs. Just add a pair of quality speakers (try Wharfedale Diamond 220s) and you've got a great hi-fi.	₹55,500 ★★★★★	
10		**Q Acoustics BT3** These ultra-versatile Bluetooth speakers have an optical input for waking up the audio of your flatscreen TV. The styling is simple and so is the sound – brilliantly so, with perfect hi-fi balance and an impressive focus to the stereo image.	₹39,990 ★★★★★	



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HOT BUY

1



AKG K451

They've actually been around a little while now, but what's put the K451 on-ears back on to our radar is a real world price of about ₹4999. For that money, they're unbeatable – awesomely agile and punchy sound wrapped up in a subtly stylish and foldable design. Add both standard and three-button control cables for maximising compatibility and there's practically no excuse for not getting brilliant sound from your phone.

STUFF SAYS
Fantastic sound and great portability at an almost unbeatable price. The perfect PMP upgrade

₹4999 ★★★★★

2		**Bowers & Wilkins P5 Series 2** Even the most demanding audio buff would find it hard to fault these – B&W have delivered a pair of premium on-ears that look, feel and sound exquisite. You control playback and volume with your iPhone, while feeling like a VIP guest at an intimate gig.	₹23,500 ★★★★★	
3		**Philips Fidelio M1 MkII** Your commute deserves a quality soundtrack, and second-generation Fidelio M1 headphones give you precisely that. There's oodles of detail to the sound and they punch harder than the Hulk. Beats and their ilk can't touch them.	₹10,999 ★★★★★	
4		**SoundMagic E10S** This is actually the third version of SoundMagic's awesome, affordable in-ears – not that you'd tell by looking. They sound even better, though: a little smoother and more refined, with tight, weighty bass. Plus there's now a mic and button for smartphone use.	₹2349 ★★★★★	
UPDATE 5		**Bose QuietComfort 25** The best kind of silence is the kind you then fill with sweet, sweet music, and that's what the QuietComfort 25s give you. The active noise-cancelling quells office hubbub, air-conditioning and aeroplane hum, and delivers cracking sound in its place.	₹25,200 ★★★★★	BEST FOR SHUTTING OUT THE WORLD
6		**Philips Fidelio M2BT** Building on the award-winning M1BT, Philips has added NFC for its new wireless Bluetooth headphones and swapped the dark blue design for an understated black finish. The smart built-in controls and rich sound performance remain.	₹14,990 ★★★★★	BEST FOR GREAT SOUND WITH NO WIRES
7		**Audio-Technica M50x** In their limited edition avatar, these extremely talented cans from AT are a tantalizing mix of style and sound. They'll handle almost every genre of music thrown at them. Tight bass, exceptional detail and a competitive price make these a superb package.	₹14,500 ★★★★★	
NEW 8		**AKG Y50** The bright colour options (they're available in yellow, teal and red, as well as black) and massive logo have a slight try-hard feel about them, but the Y50s make up for it by sounding loads better than the more 'street' on-ear headphones out there.	₹7990 ★★★★★	
9		**Sol Republic Master Tracks** Really tough things are usually really ugly, which is why the lovely styling of the "virtually indestructible" Master Tracks headphones is so refreshing. Loud, punchy, fast and controlled, the sound is just as attractive as the design. Worth every rupee.	₹13,999 ★★★★★	
10		**Sennheiser Momentum** Classily styled, cushion-comfortable and smooth-sounding, the Momentums are the perfect pair of over-ears for the dapper man about town. New! An On-Ear version – smaller, cheaper at ₹14,990, and available in pink, blue, green and, um, ivory/brown.	₹24,990 ★★★★★	BEST FOR QUALITY AND STYLE IN ONE



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HOT BUY NEW

1 Tata Sky+ Transfer HD



The new Tata Sky boxes come with built-in Wi-Fi, to make it easier to access on-demand programming, of which there's now more than ever, including pre-release blockbuster films. There's also a 500GB drive available that, with more than 45 channels of HD, might well be worth the outlay. One of the most interesting part about the Transfer HD is that it allows streaming/transferring recorded content directly to Android/iOS devices anywhere, anytime. It also has a slick app to boot.

STUFF SAYS
The only choice for serious TV, movie or sport addicts
from ₹9300 + Subscription ★★★★★

UPDATE 2		**Roku 2** Roku's new mid-range offering is the most compelling yet. It is essentially identical to the Roku 3, just without the smart remote. With a customisable feed, Netflix, Now TV, Google Play, YouTube and all the UK catch-up services, it's unbiased, slick and simple.	₹6427 ★★★★★	
3		**Sony BDV-N990** The biggest bargain in home cinema, the Blu-ray -packing N990 has a massive spec but a micro price. Picture and sound are excellent, Sony's smart services are immense and its stylish curves and touch-sensitive controls add a dash of premium quality. Brilliant.	₹34,990* ★★★★★	BEST FOR AWESOME ALL-IN-ONE VALUE
UPDATE 4		**Sony BDP-S490** Quite a remarkable device, this Sony sounds great, has a wonderful picture in 2D and 3D. It's also one of the most value-for-money Blu Ray players you can buy today and highlights Sony's complete and total dominance over the technology.	₹13,990 ★★★★★	
5		**Yamaha YSP-2500** If your only requirement for a soundbar is that it should sound better than your telly, almost any will do; but if you want one that will fool your ears into thinking they're surrounded by actual speakers, you want the amazingly clever Yamaha YSP-2500.	₹1,09,990 ★★★★★	
6		**BenQ W1400** What's better than *Inception*? *Inception* on a 300in screen, that's what. How do you get a 300in screen in your house? You buy the BenQ W1400. If your lounge isn't quite that big it can also project an 84in image from just 2m away. Try finding an 84in TV for ₹1.5lac.	₹1,50,000 ★★★★★	
7		**Marantz UD7007** Pricey like an Aston Martin is pricey and about as satisfying to own, this Marantz can play any disc you like, streams music at high-def resolutions and can withstand an earthquake. If you really, really take movies and music seriously, this is your player.	₹69,900 ★★★★★	BEST FOR THE ULTIMATE IN QUALITY
8		**Sonos Playbar** A characteristically Sonos take on the soundbar, the Playbar hooks up to your TV via its single optical input and fills your room with a big, detailed sound. And as with all Sonos kit, it can stream your own music files and more as part of a multiroom system.	₹60,000* ★★★★★	BEST FOR STREAMING MUSIC
9		**B&W Panorama 2** Let's put aside the gimmicks for a second and consider what's most important: the sound. That's where the Panorama 2 wins. You get a direct and focused sound, clear dialogue and beautiful design and build, although this is all very expensive.	₹2,11,500 ★★★★★	BEST FOR PREMIUM SOUND
10		**Microsoft Xbox 360** The Xbox One will be more media-centric than ever before, but looks like it'll require a post-launch firmware update to really shine. We'll be testing the One's media skills soon, but for now the 360 with its Windows Media Server is still a slick streamer.	from ₹15,990 ★★★★★	BEST FOR MULTIMEDIA FUN



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HOT BUY UPDATE

1 LG 55EC930T



Self-illuminating OLED (organic light-emitting diode) screens used to be full of potential but were criminally expensive. No longer. Behold this curved LG marvel which, for the most part, is no thicker than a pane of glass and verging on affordable. The levels of contrast and dynamism are a revelation. No, it's not 4K. But when 1080p Full HD looks this good, you won't be counting pixels – and it'll be some time before you'll be able to feed your TV a 4K-heavy diet anyway.

STUFF SAYS
4K and millions of pixels might be the future, but this LG OLED is the most amazing TV of right now

₹2,89,900 ★★★★★

UPDATE 2 	**Samsung UA65JU6470U** Finally, a 4K TV that can be recommended without hesitation, plus it's just as good as a Full HD TV when playing 1080p stuff. Chuck in all of Samsung's usual smart TV whizzbang, remove the silly motion-sensing controls and you've got a real star.	₹2,99,900 ★★★★★	
UPDATE 3 	**Samsung UA55JS9000K** Each of its 8.3million pixels is put to good use, filling the screen's handsome real estate with pin-sharp outlines, potent contrast and eye-popping colours. Sound-wise, it's way more powerful than bog-standard flatscreens. Worth the pretty paise ? Oh yes.	₹2,79,900 ★★★★★	
NEW 4 	**Samsung UA48J6300** The pronounced curve on this Samsung is the first thing you'll notice, as the picture may look a touch skewed from some angles; but if you're viewing from the centre it's totally immersive, and for a big TV on a budget, the picture quality is superb.	₹95,900 ★★★★★	BEST FOR AFFORDABLE CURVINESS
UPDATE 5 	**Sony KDL-50W800B** 4K a bit too new-fangled (or pricey) for you? How about a 50in edge-lit LED LCD with all of Sony's smart features for just over a lakh? It's not even like picture quality's been sacrificed – this is an absolute corker of a telly in every way.	₹1,12,900 ★★★★★	
UPDATE 6 	**Sony KDL-32W700B** There's nothing wrong with sticking with a smaller TV, but you should still make sure you pick a good 'un. This 32in Sony is the best, in terms of both picture performance and features, which include 1080p resolution and all the smart stuff you can handle.	₹44,900 ★★★★★	BEST FOR A SMALLER SCREEN
7 	**LG 55UF950T** This telly comes to life in a flash, and menus don't waste time loading – it's a glossy double-page advert for pixel-packing 4K technology. The punchy palette revels in dazzling hues, deep blacks and Colgate-smile whites, and the sound is solid.	₹2,79,900 ★★★★☆	BEST FOR AFFORDABLE BRILLIANCE
8 	**LG 42LB750T** The performance is very good, but what makes this 42in LG really special is its webOS user interface, which treats all sources, apps, recordings and live broadcasts equally, getting you to the content you want to watch quicker. And isn't that what a TV is for?	₹81,900 ★★★★☆	
9 	**Bang & Olufsen BeoVision Avant 55** That price tag is pretty high. Plus, you'll have to shell out extra for the remote and mesmerising TV stand. But then again, this is one of the classiest TVs that money can buy. The fine HD picture, excellent audio and overall looks is just, sheer class.	₹9,99,990 ★★★★☆	
NEW 10 	**Sony KDL-55W800C** If you're not bothered about 4K but fancy a large, vibrant screen, this sleek 55-incher might be for you. The colour balance could be more natural, but it features Google's new platform so you can download films, shows, games and music straight to the TV.	₹1,54,900 ★★★★☆	



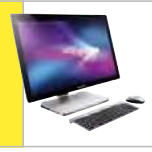
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HOME COMPUTERS

HOT BUY 1		**Apple iMac** Other than regular power upgrades and a bit of slimming, the iMac has been largely unchanged for a while, but it does now run Apple's lovely Yosemite OS. There's also now a more affordable version and an eye-wateringly expensive 4K model.	from ₹91,900 ★★★★★	BEST FOR ALL-ROUND BRILLIANCE
2		**Apple Mac Mini** This tiny PC is still one of the most capable devices in the size group, and is intelligently priced as well. You are going to need to plug in the keyboard, mouse and monitor, but it's a convenient little device that you could slip into your backpack if you need to.	from ₹36,990 ★★★★★	BEST FOR COMPACT POWER
3		**Alienware X51 (2014)** The X51 hasn't changed a huge amount, but the wee size matched with powerful components make it perfectly suited to HD gaming. Steam Machines are going to liven this market up but right now it's the best balance of power and form in PC land.	₹tba ★★★★★	
4		**Raspberry Pi Model B+** It's a fully functioning PC that's barely bigger than a credit card, and now it's a little more flexible than before thanks to two extra USB ports and better power management. Don't expect a 'proper' computer – this is for tinkerers after a fun new project.	from ₹2875 ★★★★☆	
5		**Lenovo IdeaCentre A720** The A720's stand mechanism allows that lumbering 27in screen to lie flat, which is ideal for multi-user access to its 10-point multitouch. A quad-core i7 processor gives it plenty of power although the peripherals don't feel quite as well made as we'd like.	from ₹99,990 ★★★★☆	

GAMES CONSOLES

HOT BUY 1		**Sony PlayStation 4** It may not quite be the finished article, but this is the best games machine on the planet. It has whisper-quiet operation, a sleek form and bags of power, with full 1080p on all titles and not a whiff of lag. When proper media streaming arrives, it'll be unstoppable.	₹39,990 ★★★★★	
2		**Microsoft Xbox One** This is very different to the Xbox One of 2013. Most significantly, the unpopular Kinect feature is now out of the deal, allowing Microsoft to drop the price and releasing enough extra power for developers to make their games look and play better.	₹39,990 ★★★★★	
3		**Microsoft Xbox 360** Yes, it's been succeeded by the One, but the years have been kind to the 360. With an amazing catalogue of recent games that use its full potential, brilliant media streaming skills and a low, low price it's impossible not to recommend it to cash-strapped gamers.	from ₹15,990 ★★★★★	BEST FOR BUDGET GAMING
4		**Sony PlayStation 3** The PS3 has been around a while but, like the Xbox 360, that just means it has plenty of great games. Online gaming via PlayStation Network is still brilliant and still free, and it's worth buying for its Blu-ray and media streaming alone.	from ₹16,990 ★★★★★	
5		**Nintendo 3DS XL** The 3D effect may be a gimmick that hasn't paid off, but put that to one side and the 3DS is still the king of the portable games machines. The XL is the biggest version yet, and there's now a massive catalogue of inventive dual-screen games to play.	₹22,990 ★★★★☆	



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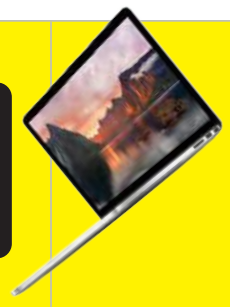
HOT BUY 1		**Olympus OM-D E-M1** The Olympus flagship is armed with the same excellent 16.3MP sensor as its predecessor the E-M5, but has an improved autofocus system, a startlingly good electronic viewfinder and masses of direct controls. Also look out for the E-M10.	₹1,05,000 (body only) ★★★★★	
UPDATE 2		**Sony A6000** Sony's new system camera may be tiny but it packs a big photographic punch. There may be no optical image stabilisation but the incredible speed and accuracy of the A6000's autofocus is a real highlight, as is its large, clear electronic viewfinder.	₹51,900 (body only) ★★★★★	BEST FOR ALL-ROUND VALUE
NEW 3		**Nikon D750** It's big and bulky, but otherwise this is one of the most comfortable and intuitive DSLRs money can buy. And with a handy tilt screen and some wireless connectivity features, there's none of the purist snootiness that we saw in the D810.	₹1,34,450 (body only) ★★★★★	
NEW 4		**Canon EOS 750D** The 750D redefines what an entry-level DSLR can be: it's remarkably easy to use, will help you take stunningly good photos whatever your experience level and won't ever let you down.	₹49,995 (body only) ★★★★★	
5		**Sony A7R** We love this camera. It's lightweight but tough and delivers results that outstrip pretty much any other compact system camera on the market. It has a huge full-frame 36.4MP sensor and noise-suppression. Your wallet might weep, but your photo album will sing.	₹1,24,990 (body only) ★★★★★	

COMPACT CAMERAS

HOT BUY 1		**Sony DSC-HX60** 2014's HX60 isn't a huge departure from its predecessor in terms of its build quality, ease of use, specifications and 30x zoom lens – all of which are excellent. What it does add is NFC and a newer Bionz X processor, making it a slightly nippier performer.	₹22,990 ★★★★★	
2		**Sony DSC-RX100 III** If you're looking for the best tiny snapper around, this is it. Excellent image quality, fast autofocus, a useful electronic viewfinder and professional video recording, all squeezed into a truly teeny package that'll fit into your jeans pocket. We're smitten.	₹54,990 ★★★★★	
3		**Fujifilm FinePix X100S** Fujifilm's souped up its fixed-lens retro shooter, with faster focusing and a big APS-C sensor. It's not all new, though, keeping the 35mm-equivalent f/2 lens and hybrid viewfinder from the X100. A less retro version with black finish is now available too.	₹74,999 ★★★★★	
4		**Canon PowerShot G16** The G16 packs a lot into its sturdy body: optical viewfinder, loads of manual controls and an f1.8-2.8, 28-140mm (equivalent) zoom lens. Upgrades over the G15 include Wi-Fi and faster burst shooting of up to 12fps, while image quality is as good as ever.	₹31,995 ★★★★★	
5		**Nikon Coolpix AW120** The ultimate rugged camera: almost indestructible, and fit for temperatures as low as -10°C, it will even survive a rinse cycle in your dishwasher. The AW120 also takes lovely pictures and impressive video in both good lighting and dimmer conditions.	₹17,950 ★★★★★	BEST FOR EXTREME EXPLOITS



1 HOT BUY



Apple MacBook Pro 13in (2015)

Apple hasn't changed too many parts of the MacBook Pro for 2015. There's a fancy new trackpad and the latest generation of Intel CPUs, which deliver better stamina as well as a chunk more power. This is an incremental upgrade, but given how good the Pro already was, that's more than enough to keep it right at the top of the laptop honours list. If you need power as well as stamina and portability, this is one of the best laptops money can buy.

STUFF SAYS
If it ain't broke... it hasn't radically changed, but the Pro's performance and trackpad are top of its class

from ₹94,900 ★★★★★

2		**Asus ZenBook UX305** Asus knows what it's doing. It knows that the Apple MacBook Air laptops are treading water and the ZenBook UX305 is pretty much everything the 2015 Air should have been, with its fetching aluminium design and as good a display as any ₹1 lac laptop.	from ₹49,999 ★★★★★	
UPDATE 3		**Microsoft Surface Pro 3** At last, Microsoft has delivered on the promise of the tablet-cum-laptop hybrid. It proves there's space in the world for a design that's more productive than an iPad or Galaxy Note, but easier to hump around than a traditional laptop.	from ₹65,300* ★★★★★	BEST FOR USING ANYWHERE
4		**Asus ROG G751** The G751 is for the loud and proud PC gamer. While its design is rather brash, the awesome performance, good screen and highly effective fans that keep it pretty quiet under pressure make this one of the best gaming laptops around.	₹1,35,999 ★★★★★	
5		**Apple MacBook (2015)** This is no 'Air', nor 'Pro': a clear sign that this is what Apple sees as the future of the ultraportable laptop. And it's certainly very desirable: a 12in lean machine with a superb screen and haptic touchpad. However, the lack of ports can be frustrating.	from ₹72,900 ★★★★★	
6		**Apple MacBook Air 13in (2015)** Apple is scraping by with pretty much the same Air design as before. You get a new processor, new connectors and slightly improved battery life, but still no Retina screen. However, if a portable road warrior is what you're after, this is still a great choice.	from ₹86,900 ★★★★☆	
7		**Asus Zenbook UX302** Asus has done a wonderful job of creating an ultra-slim laptop that's as far removed from Apple's influence as possible, while maintaining a stylish and unique aesthetic. The 13.3in display is razor-sharp and colourful – this is our favourite Ultrabook.	₹99,999 ★★★★☆	
UPDATE 8		**Lenovo Yoga Pro 3** The third entry in the Yoga Pro line refines the laptop/tablet hybrid design with a power-sipping new Intel Core M processor plus slimness and style to make even the MacBook Air look worried. And you can stand it up like a tent. If you want.	₹1,15,990 ★★★★☆	
9		**Acer C720 Chromebook** Bargain Chromebooks are everywhere right now, but the C720 stands out even so. It's well made, well specced (for a Chromebook) and crucially, has proper ports: HDMI, USB3.0 and SD are all here. The HP at No.7 is prettier, but the Acer's the one we'd buy.	₹22,990 ★★★★☆	
10		**Acer Aspire S7** The Aspire S7 is almost the perfect Ultrabook – it matches the MacBook Air for weight, beats it for slimness by 6mm, and has a gorgeous 1920x1080 touch-friendly screen. Only its battery, which lasted a mere 5hrs on test, prevents it getting that fifth star.	₹1,02,999 ★★★★☆	BEST FOR TOUCHY-FEELY WINDOWS 8



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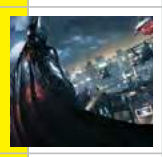
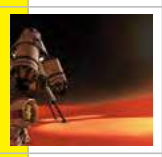
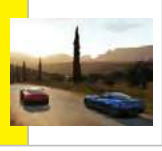
HOT BUY

1 The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt PS4/PC/Xbox One



Weighing up the +12 damage of one sword with the +15% critical chance of another is tedious work, and there are issues with the AI's pathfinding that means your horse seems to get stuck behind just about anything and everything all the flaming time, but these are minor flaws in a game that is otherwise something of a fantasy masterpiece. Only the most RPG-phobic should avoid it – everyone else will find *The Witcher 3* to be one of the finest games of recent memory.

STUFF SAYS
Bigger than Skyrim and with more character, The Witcher 3 is a new RPG benchmark
★★★★★

NEW	2		**Everybody's Gone to the Rapture** PS4 If you can't go five minutes without shooting an alien in the head, this isn't the game for you, but if the idea of walking through a novel about love, place, obsession, belonging, faith, science and the end of humanity appeals to you, this is just brilliant.	★★★★★	
NEW	3		**Batman: Arkham Knight** PC/PS4/ Xbox One We struggle to think of another action game that has mastered action, puzzling, platforming, adventure, and racing quite so effectively, and presented each element with such an insane degree of polish. Make no mistake, this is the new gold standard.	★★★★★	
	4		**Bloodborne** PS4 Bloodborne is a tricky beast. It's not for everyone. But if you're looking for something a little different, something that'll really challenge and involve you a bit more than your average eight-hour shoot-a-thon, you need to check it out.	★★★★★	
NEW	5		**Kerbal Space Program** PC/PS4/Xbox One/Wii U There have been space flight simulators before, but nothing that manages to feel simultaneously so fully-featured and (relatively) welcoming. If you're a PC owner with any sort of interest in exploring extraterrestrial places, then this is it; you are home.	★★★★★	
	6		**Far Cry 4** PC/PS3/Xbox 360/PS4/Xbox One Another holiday doesn't quite go to plan in Ubisoft's latest open-world adventure, now with added elephants. *Far Cry 4* is a glorious timesink. The principle attraction is most certainly its campaign, which is easily the best thing about it.	★★★★★	
	7		**Grand Theft Auto V** PS3/PS4/Xbox One/Xbox 360 There's a lot about *Grand Theft Auto 5* that remains unchanged, but on the new-gen machines, it's a fantastic experience like never before. The crazy world of Los Santos offers enough thrills to keep gamers coming back for more and more.	★★★★★	
	8		**The Last Of Us Remastered** PS3/PS4 Now remastered for PS4, this is the best zombie-apocalypse game ever. It looks magnificent and plays even better, with a moving story and frights aplenty. It's tough... but then a real-life zombie apocalypse would be. Think of this as essential prep.	★★★★★	BEST FOR ZOMBIFIED HORROR
	9		**Destiny** PS4/Xbox One This isn't for everyone, and those hoping for an epic *Halo*-style campaign may be disappointed. But in every other way, *Destiny* is on a bigger, far more multiplayer level, and with the added addictive quest for loot like *Diablo* – an irresistible combination.	★★★★★	
	10		**Forza Horizon 2** Xbox One This is everything an open-world driving game should be. There's loads to do and it captures the feeling of driving very fast better than any other racing game, to the point where *Forza Horizon 2* could soon eclipse its older brother once and for all.	★★★★★	



HOT BUY 1		**Apple Watch** Apple's Watch is by no means the first smartwatch, but it is the most desirable. It is more luxurious (and yes, more expensive) than its rivals, its software is better thought out, and in the coming months you'll see an explosion of new apps for it. It's hard to pin down a specific thing that makes the Apple Watch special; in some ways it's the ultimate gadget. Simply put, the right now of the Apple Watch is pretty great. But the future of Apple Watch is really amazing. **STUFF SAYS** **The Apple Watch is the classiest and cleverest smartwatch, with a platform teeming with possibility**	from ₹30,000* ★★★★★	
UPDATE 2		**Pebble Steel** Unveiled at CES 2014, the Steel keeps the straightforward looks, crisp display and five-day battery life that helped the standard Pebble win our hearts. The Steel goes beyond the gimmicks and into the world of real-world wearable tech. Classy indeed.	₹18,990 ★★★★★	BEST FOR BATTERY LIFE
UPDATE 3		**Garmin Vívosmart** The Vívosmart is definitely one of the most ergonomic and stylish activity trackers around. Besides tracking your daily routine and nudging you towards a better lifestyle, it also lets you know of any notifications from your smartphone through vibrations. Nifty!	₹11,999 ★★★★★	BEST FOR ACCURACY AND FITNESS
UPDATE 4		**Fitbit Flex** The Flex delivers all of Fitbit's activity-tracking smarts but in a form factor that's less fiddly than its belt-clip counterparts. It's packed with Bluetooth, NFC, vibratamotor and an LED display. See also the new Fitbit Charge, with a full display.	₹6990 ★★★★★	BEST FOR TRACKING YOUR LIFE
5		**GOQii Band** A fitness band, it's propreity app and a fitness and habit expert who coaches you to acheive your ideal lifestyle is what you'll be signing onto with GOQii. Get a hands-on idea of your progress via collected physical data, complete with statistical analysis.	from ₹3999 ★★★★★	
UPDATE 6		**Motorola Moto 360** With its iconic, head-turning design, this could be the first wearable you will want to wear. The Moto 360's our favourite and most comfortable Android Wear watch so far, but the battery might make you anxious and it's a few specs short of brilliance.	₹13,999 ★★★★★	
7		**Sony SmartWatch3** The Sony SmartWatch 3 has the brains of a Google watch, coupled with GPS skills for fitness fans, with plenty of power and decent battery life. A waterproof build and GPS powers make this the best fitness smartwatch around.	₹19,990 ★★★★☆	
UPDATE 8		**Roku Streaming Stick** 'Streaming Stick' tells you all you need to know, really: this is a stick, and it streams. It streams plenty, too. And unlike Chromecast, it's also a dab hand with your own video and music files. Lovely stuff.	₹5099 ★★★★☆	
9		**Misfit Shine** The Shine's minimalist exterior redefines fitness trackers. Former Apple CEO and Misfit co-founder John Sculley may have something to do with that. Plus, its fitness and sleep monitoring skills are solid, and a button cell means no recharging. Perfect.	₹9990 ★★★★☆	
10		**Google Chromecast** This USB memory-stick-sized cord-cutter is compatible with YouTube, Google Play movies and more: a cheap, simple way of getting web-sourced movies and shows onto your living-room TV.	₹2999 ★★★★☆	





USER-UNFRIENDLINESS

Well this doesn't sound too... friendly.
They do say the clue's in the name. User-unfriendliness is a design movement that wants to boot you off your satin-lined throne and down into the harsh, grime-laden streets of the real world. It's driven by products that are intentionally designed to be more tricky to use, with the aim of altering our perceptions and making us think about the way we live our lives and use technology. And no, it's not about your smartwatch nagging you to drink another glass of water, stand up or take the stairs.

This isn't exactly selling it for me...
There's more to it than blindly making your life more difficult. Take designer Weng Xinyu's Angry Lamp, pictured above. It turns itself off if it detects that a room is already bright enough to read in, forcing you to turn it on again... or think about whether you really should. There's also a photo frame that gradually blurs its glass, like a fading memory, until you interact with it – perhaps to reminisce about the time the photo was taken. If being encouraged to remember your tipsy selfie with an Arnie lookalike is wrong, then we don't want to be right.

But I already have a non-annoying lamp and photo frame.
You're missing the point. This is all designed to make you pause and reflect. Consider the Albert clock, a digital timekeeper that makes you work for the time. It displays sums, the answers to which represent the hours and minutes. A little bit of daily mental arithmetic rewards you with the time, while keeping your neurons finely honed. Embrace it – otherwise you'll wake up one day with your USB-powered knife on the blink and no idea how to cut the top off your boiled egg.

Beautiful inside and out.

The new Moto X Style

Moto X Style has it all with beautiful design and powerful Moto performance paired with a Pure Android™ experience. Enjoy a stunning 14.4cm(5.7) Quad HD display, immersive stereo sound, a 21 MP camera, 3GB RAM, 4G speed and TurboPower™ for blazing-fast charging[1]. All on a sleek metal frame that looks as amazing as it feels.



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with CCT dual LED flash

5 MP front camera
with flash

14.4cm (5.7) Quad HD,
520ppi display

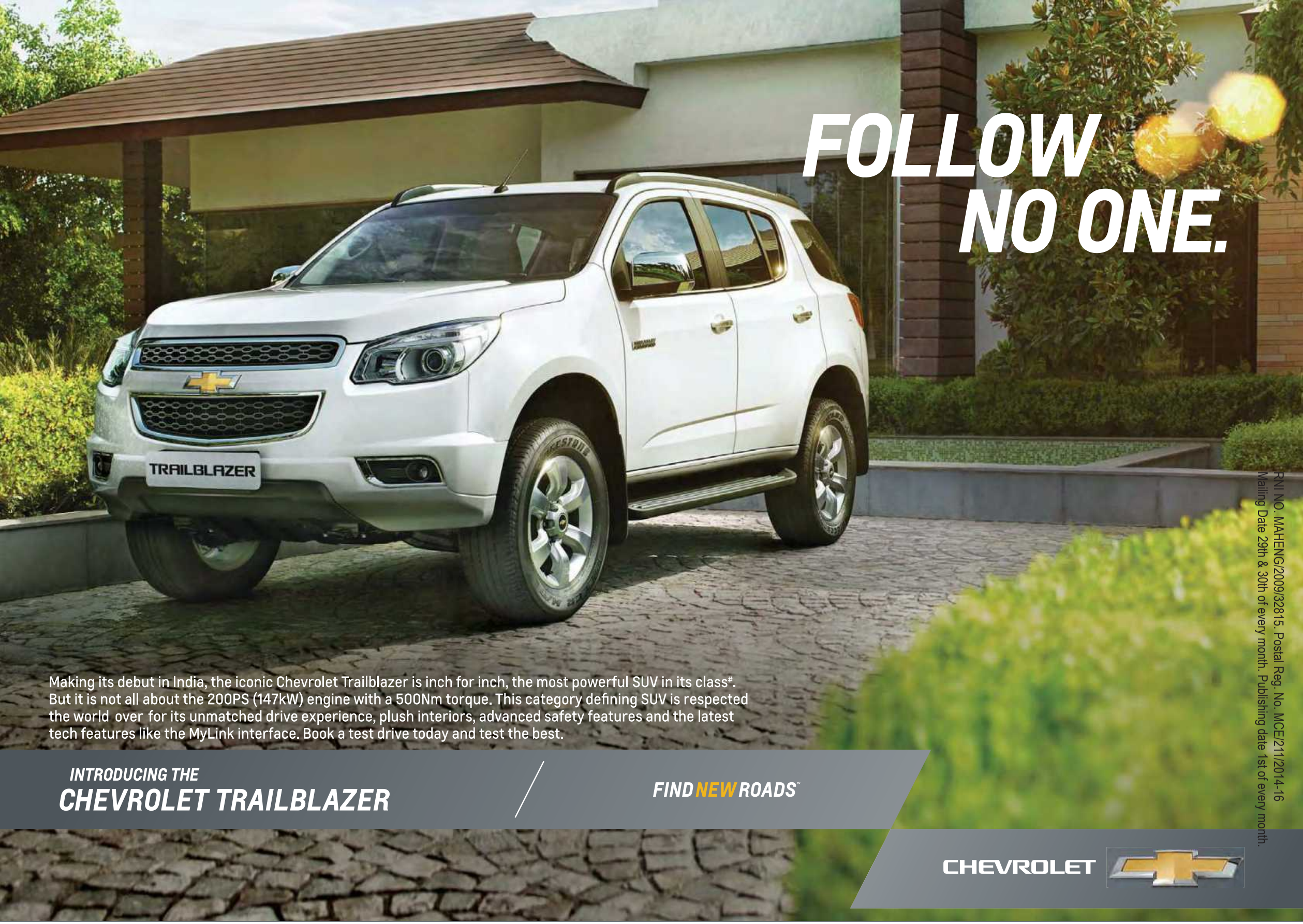
3GB RAM
16/32GB ROM
Expands to 128GB**

Pure Android™
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moto X STYLE Choose the phone that loves you back

1. Battery must be substantially depleted; charging rate slows as charging progresses. Based on average smartphone charging rate (mA) in the first 15 minutes and over the entire charging cycle. Tests compared other 2015 premium smartphones with ➔= 2500 mAh batteries using their in-box, standard micro USB rapid charging solution. Testing as of July 2015.**MicroSD card sold separately. Certain features, functionality and product specifications may be network dependent and subject to additional terms, conditions, and charges. All are subject to change without notice. MOTOROLA and the Stylized M Logo are registered trademarks of Motorola Trademark Holdings, LLC. Android, Google and Google Play are trademarks of Google Inc. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. © 2015 Motorola Mobility LLC. All rights reserved.

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